

A N N A L S
OF
THE REIGN
OF
KING GEORGE THE THIRD;

FROM ITS COMMENCEMENT

IN THE YEAR 1760,

TO THE DEATH OF HIS MAJESTY

IN THE YEAR 1820.

By JOHN AIKIN, M.D.

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of, the Orders in Council. — Budget. — Alarming Riots among the Manufacturers, and Bill for their Suppression. — Motions for Relief of the Roman Catholics. — Bill in favour of Dissenting Worship. — Spanish Campaign. — French repulsed at Tariffa. — Valencia taken by them. — Lord Wellington reduces Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajos, and advances against Marshal Marmont. — Battle of Salamanca. — Its results: Madrid evacuated, and the Blockade of Cadiz raised. — Failure of Lord Wellington at Burgos, and his Retreat to the Frontiers of Portugal. — Spanish Cortes. — Ballasteros. — Overture for Peace by Napoleon. — Naval Transactions. — Napoleon's grand Design against Russia. — French occupy Swedish Pomerania. — Advance of the French Armies. — Ineffectual Negotiations. — Russians retire. — Battles of Smolensko and Moskwa. — Napoleon enters Moscow. — Its Conflagration. — Disastrous Retreat of the French. — Conspiracy at Paris. — Napoleon's Return. — Peace between Russia and the Porte, and Sweden. — Sicilian Constitution. — Affairs of the United States of America. — Declaration of War against Great Britain. — Attempts upon Canada foiled. — Their Naval Successes. — Events in South America. — East Indies and Persia. — Domestic Occurrences. — Suppression of Riots. — Parliament dissolved and a new one assembled. — Prince Regent's Speech, and Debates - - - - - Page 345

A. D. 1813.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 53 & 54.
 ———— PARLIAMENT 1 & 2.

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Liberation of Germany. — Revolution in Holland, and Restoration of the Prince of Orange. — War between Denmark and Sweden. — Surrender of Dresden and Stettin. — Actions in Italy. — Affairs of Switzerland. — Events of the War with the United States of America. — Renewed Attempt on Canada defeated. — Naval Actions. — Fiume taken. — The Plague at Malta. — Hurricanes in the West Indies. — Parliament re-assembled. — Royal Speech. — Bill for augmenting the disposable Force - - - Page 382

A. D. 1814.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 54 & 55.

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A. D. 1815.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 55 & 56.

— PARLIAMENT 3 & 4.

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A. D. 1816.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 56 & 57.

— PARLIAMENT 4 & 5.

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A. D. 1817.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 57 & 58.

————— PARLIAMENT, 5 & 6.

Prince Regent's Speech.—*A Stone thrown into his Carriage.*—*Committees of both Houses to examine into seditious Practices.*—*Suspension of the Habeas Corpus.*—*Acts to restrain Sedition.*—*Measures of Economy proposed and frustrated.*—*Catholic question.*—*Mr. Mannors Sutton elected Speaker.*—*Circular Letter of Lord Sidmouth to Lord-Lieutenants animadverted on in Parliament.*—*Committee of Secrecy on seditious Practices.*—*Employment of Spies.*—*Fresh Suspension of the Habeas Corpus.*—*Budget.*—*Tumults in the northern and midland Counties.*—*Death of the Princess Charlotte* - Page 496

A. D. 1818.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 58 & 59.

————— PARLIAMENT, 6 & 7.

Prince Regent's Speech.—*Conduct of Ministers under the Suspension of the Habeas Corpus.*—*Committee on Papers respecting the internal State of the Country.*—*Treaty with Spain respecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade.*—*Bill of Indemnity for Acts done under Suspension of the Habeas Corpus.*—*Grant for building new Churches.*—*Marriages of their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Clarence, Cambridge, and Kent.*—*Grants to them and to the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland debated.*—*Budget.*—*Amendments in the Regency Bill.*—*Disturbances among the Cotton Spinners.*—*Evacuation of the French Territory by the Allied Powers.*—*Death of the Queen* - - 504

A. D. 1819.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 59 & 60.

————— PARLIAMENT, 1 & 2.

Committee appointed to consider the Penal Code.—*Duke of York appointed Custos of the King's Person.*—*Debate on the Salary to be allowed him, and on the Windsor Establishment.*—*Reports of the Committee on resuming Cash Payments.*—*Act on this Subject.*—*Catholic Question lost by two Votes in the House of Commons.*—*Motions on this subject in the House of Lords.*—*Foreign Enlistment Bill.*—*New Taxes.*—*Regent's Speech.*—*Proclamation against seditious Meetings.*—*Proceedings of the Radical Reformers.*—*Popular Meetings.*—*Female Reform Societies.*—*Election of a Member of Parliament for Birmingham.*—*Reform Meeting at Manchester.*—*Its Dispersion by a Military Force.*—*Proceedings of the Manchester Magistrates.*—*Thanks given them by the Prince Regent.*—*Treatment of Mr. Hunt.*—*Other Reform Meetings.*—*Meetings on the Manchester Business.*—*Dismissal of Earl Fitzwilliam.*—*High Measures of Government.*—*Early Meeting of Parliament.*—*Prince Regent's Speech.*—*Debates on the Address.*—*Documents on the State of the Country.*—*New Laws proposed by Ministers.*—*Traverse Bill.*—*Seditious Libel.*—*Newspaper Stamp.*—*Seditious Meetings, Training, and Search for Arms Bills.*—*Debates on these Measures.*—*Amendments made.*—*Illness of George III.*—*His Death and Character* - - 509

ANNALS



THE REIGN

OF

KING GEORGE III.

A.D. 1795.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 35 & 36.
 ——— PARLIAMENT 5 & 6.

King's Speech in Parliament. — Debates respecting suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. — Measures for augmenting the Navy. — Imperial Loan. — Financial Statements. — Motions for Negotiation defeated. — Slave Trade Abolition postponed. — Acquittal of Mr. Hastings. — Debate on an extra allowance to the Army without participation of Parliament. — Marriage of the Prince of Wales to the Princess Caroline of Brunswick. — Arrangement respecting his debts. — Discontents among the Roman Catholics of Ireland. — Recall of Earl Fitzwilliam from the Vice-royalty, and its effects in both countries. — Invasion of the United Provinces by the French, and disastrous retreat of the British Army. — Retreat of the Stadtholder to England, and entire change of the Dutch Government under the influence of France. — Peace between the King of Prussia and the French Republic. — Treaty between Spain and France. — Affairs of the Chouans and Vendéans, and Defeat of the Emigrants landed in Britany by an English Fleet. — Campaign on the Lower Rhine between the French and Austrians. — Party Tumults and Insurrections in Paris. — Death of the Dauphin, and deliverance of his Sister. — New French Constitution. — Insurrection of the Sections of Paris, quelled by the Army under the conduct of Napoleon Buonaparte. — The Convention resigns its Authority, and is succeeded by the new Legislature and the Directory. — Treaties between France and several other Powers. — Austrian Netherlands incorporated with France. — Occurrences in the West Indies. — Naval Affairs. — Actions under

Admiral Hotham and Lord Bridport. — Reduction of the Cape of Good Hope. — Domestic Transactions. — Unpopularity of the War. — Popular Meetings. — Insult offered to the King. — Parliament re-assembled. — Royal Speech and Debates. — Bills for the safety and preservation of his Majesty's Person, and for the prevention of Seditious Meetings. — Message concerning Negotiation with France. — Party Violences at Geneva.

ON the opening of parliament, December 30th, 1794, the royal speech expressed a conviction of the necessity of persisting in a vigorous prosecution of the war, notwithstanding the reverses which had been experienced in the last campaign, and spoke of the state of France as exhibiting the progressive and rapid decay of its resources, and the instability of its violent and unnatural system. It took notice of the negotiations for peace with France which the United Provinces had been led to enter into in consequence of their present difficulties; but observed that no real security could be derived to any established government from negotiation under the present circumstances; and particularly that they could not be entered into on our part without sacrificing both our honour and our safety. From the topics touched upon in the speech may be inferred the train of argument which would be pursued in the debates consequent upon the usual motion in each house for the corresponding address; and although the unfavourable prospects of the war induced some members who had originally supported it to object to a resolution for its indefinite continuance, the majorities by which the addresses were voted were not materially diminished.

On January 5th a motion by Mr. Sheridan for a repeal of the act suspending the habeas corpus gave rise to a discussion of that measure; which was renewed when, after the motion was negatived, the attorney-general moved for a bill for continuing the suspension. The arguments on these discussions chiefly turned upon the fact whether or not the late trials had proved the existence of a conspiracy against the state, by which alone the suspension of a law so essential to British liberty could be vindicated. The motion was finally

carried in the House of Commons by 203 against 53. The debates in the House of Lords had a similar issue, but an animated protest against the bill was entered by its opposers.

The necessity of making extraordinary exertions for carrying on the war, at a time when Great Britain and Austria alone continued efficient members of the confederacy, and the latter could not come to action without the aid of English money, rendered the business of supplies a difficult task to the minister. A plan for the augmentation of the navy was the first measure brought before the House, the service for the present year being calculated to require 85,000 seamen and 15,000 marines. For raising the deficient number expeditiously without pressing, Mr. Pitt proposed that a certain number of men should be furnished by each merchant ship on clearing out, in proportion to its tonnage; besides which, every parish in the kingdom was to contribute one man. This plan, with a few alterations, was adopted. On February 4th a message was brought to the House from his Majesty, signifying the necessity of a loan to the Emperor, of four millions, for enabling him to make the vigorous exertions for the common cause in the ensuing campaign which he was earnestly desirous of doing. In the discussion that followed, notice was first taken of the misapplication, by the King of Prussia, of the subsidy which had been granted to him, and which he had chiefly employed in promoting his unjust designs upon Poland; and it was argued that the conduct of the Austrian ministry did not justify placing a higher confidence in that court. On the other hand, Mr. Pitt, who admitted that the behaviour of Prussia had been highly censurable, endeavoured to point out an essential difference in the case of Austria, whose own interest was greatly at stake upon the issue of the war; and he moved for a compliance with the conditions proposed by that court. Mr. Fox spoke in opposition to the motion, which was carried by a great majority. The statement of expenditure for this year, laid before the House on February 23d, made the amount

27,145,000*l.* and the deficiencies of ways and means about 400,000*l.*, for the making up of which a number of new taxes were imposed, with an abridgement of the privilege of franking. As a consolation for these additional burdens, the minister mentioned the extraordinary increase of the national commerce, which in the preceding year had exceeded that of the most flourishing period of peace.

The opposition in both Houses during this session renewed their attempts to set on foot negotiations for peace, by a variety of motions, which produced debates too similar to those on the same topic in former sessions to require particular attention. The meliorated character of the French government, indeed, and the increased improbability of subverting it by force of arms, gave additional strength to the arguments against the war; but sanguine hopes of a change of fortune were held forth by the ministers; and the national spirit both in and out of parliament was still highly adverse to conciliation with such a foe. The motions were therefore defeated by great majorities.

Mr. Wilberforce on February 26th brought again before the House of Commons the subject of the slave trade, by a motion for its final abolition. It was opposed, as before, by the West India interest; and on a division, the motion was postponed for six months by a majority of 17.

The trial of Mr. Hastings, which had lasted seven years, was terminated on April 23d by the sentence of the House of Lords. The mode followed on this solemn occasion was to put each of the sixteen articles of the charge against him separately to a question of guilty or not guilty, to every one of the Lords present, beginning with the junior baron. The Lords were twenty-nine in number; and the general result was, that of two of the charges he was unanimously pronounced not guilty; of the others, the votes varied from three to six guilty, and the rest not guilty. The Chancellor then pronounced as follows: "Warren Hastings, you are acquitted of all the charges of impeachment brought against you by the

Commons, and of all the matters contained therein; you and your bail therefore are discharged." The East India Company paid Mr. Hastings the costs of his trial, amounting to upwards of 70,000*l.*, and besides, conferred upon him a pecuniary donation. The interest of the public in the cause appeared to have nearly evaporated in the length of the proceedings.

Among various matters of regulation relative to the army and navy which were agitated in parliament, one deserves to be mentioned as involving a constitutional point. An extra allowance for bread and meat to the army had been made in April without the participation of parliament, which was generally thought a very exceptionable measure, as if intended to impress the soldiery with the notion that the bounty came from the generosity of the crown, not from the pockets of the people, and as a direct insult to the legislature which was at that time sitting. The matter was brought before the House of Commons on May 18th by General Macleod, who moved that a committee should be appointed to take it into consideration. In the debate on the subject, Mr. Pitt endeavoured to justify the measure as being a temporary relief in a case of necessity, which would cease with that necessity, whereas an augmentation of pay voted by parliament would have become permanent. This reasoning, however, did not prove satisfactory, and it was found expedient to end the debate by moving the previous question, which was carried.

On April 8th, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was married to Caroline Princess of Brunswick, daughter of the Duke of Brunswick. On the 27th of that month a message from his Majesty was delivered to the House of Commons, recommending the settling upon the Prince and Princess a provision suitable to their rank and dignity. His Majesty at the same time expressed great regret in informing the House, that such settlement could not be beneficial, if means were not provided to extricate the Prince from the incumbrances under which he laboured to a large amount;

but that he had no idea of proposing the payment of his Royal Highness's debts in any other manner than by appropriating a part of his income, and the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall, to that purpose. Mr. Pitt having moved for taking the King's message into consideration, long discussions ensued in both Houses on the subject, which were closed by an act passed on June 27th, settling on the Prince an annual revenue of 125,000*l.* together with the rents of the Duchy of Cornwall, estimated at 13,000*l.* Out of this income 73,000*l.* was appropriated to the discharge of his debts under the direction of commissioners appointed by parliament, and regulations were made to prevent the accumulation of new debts.

This year may in some measure be regarded as the date of those deep-rooted animosities of the Irish Roman catholics against the English government, which at length broke out in open rebellion, and have never since ceased to alienate the affections of the greatest portion of the people of Ireland. The removal of some of the restrictions under which that class of subjects had so long laboured, would naturally cherish the hope that their remaining disabilities would, upon a like principle of equity, be taken off, and that they should be restored to the full privileges of citizens. Impatient under the delay of the expected concessions, many among them had entered into secret connexions with the French revolutionists; and the successes of the latter had probably inspired some of the hottest mal-contents with the idea of the separation of that island from the British dominion. In this critical state of things, Earl Fitzwilliam, a nobleman of that whig party which the dread of French principles had associated with the existing ministry, was nominated to the government of Ireland; an appointment which his known inclination to liberal and conciliatory measures rendered peculiarly acceptable to that country. He was greeted with cordial addresses by the Irish parliament, which, assembled on January 22d; and the largest supplies that had ever been granted to govern-

ment were voted in the following month. The catholics regarding this as an auspicious time for attempting to improve their condition, applied to Mr. Grattan to take the part of their mediator ; and on February 12th, that gentleman moved for leave to bring in a bill “ for the relief of persons professing the Roman catholic religion.” To this motion scarcely any opposition was made, and members were nominated for preparing the proposed bill ; but while the catholics and the Irish nation in general were rejoicing in the prospect of a measure which would tend to heal the prevailing discontents, intelligence arrived that the English ministry were wholly averse to it. Lord Fitzwilliam in vain sent representations of the danger which would result from disappointing the expectations that had been raised, and absolutely refused to be the instrument for such a purpose ; the consequence was his dismissal from the Viceroyalty, and the appointment of Lord Camden to be his successor. This change occasioned a great emotion in the Irish parliament, and the House of Commons voted an address to Lord Fitzwilliam in approbation of his conduct. The people at large manifested their dissatisfaction in a more serious manner, and tumults arose which were not quelled without the interference of the military. The day of his lordship’s departure was solemnized by a general mourning in Dublin : shops were shut up, and he was conveyed to the water side with every demonstration of respect to him and grief for the occasion. On the other hand, the arrival of his successor was accompanied with every mark of the popular displeasure, and a strong disposition to riot. The Irish parliament, however, soon gave a proof of the facility with which a body under such an influence could alter its language and measures. A motion of Mr. Grattan to enquire into the state of the nation, and the reasons of Lord Fitzwilliam’s recall, was negatived by a great majority of the same members who had voted for his former motion, and the proposed bill for the relief of the catholics was thrown out. This tergiversation of their

representatives filled the people of Ireland with resentment and contempt, and destroyed all their confidence in that part of the constitution.

On the return of Lord Fitzwilliam, an altercation commenced between him and the ministry respecting the instructions given to him when he was intrusted with the government of Ireland, and the causes of his recall. In the House of Lords, the Duke of Norfolk made a motion for an enquiry into this subject, which occasioned a warm debate, in which some of the ministerial party argued chiefly upon the prerogative of the crown to dismiss its servants at discretion, whilst others directly affirmed that the introduction of the catholic business into parliament was contrary to Lord Fitzwilliam's instructions, and that their emancipation was repugnant to sound policy, and the King's oath. The motion was rejected by 100 against 25. A similar motion was made in the House of Commons with the like result.

The session closed on June 27th, with a speech from the throne, of which the most observable passage was the expression of a hope "that the present circumstances of France might in their effects hasten the return of such a state of order and regular government, as would be capable of maintaining the accustomed relations of peace and amity with other powers."

It is time now to enquire what those circumstances were.

The conquest of Holland was the enterprize which principally occupied the French military councils at the close of the last year—that enterprize in which the power of Louis XIV. at its summit was foiled. The present state of that country, indeed, rendered success more probable than at the prior period; for since the restoration of the Stadtholderate by the arms of Prussia, disaffection to the house of Orange and its supporters had been a prevailing sentiment in the United Provinces, and several of them had openly declared for the recognition of the French republic, and the abandonment of the connection with Great Britain; nor was there now

a William III. at the head. The principal difficulty which occurred to the French after the capture of Nimeguen, was the crossing of the waters interposed between Holland and Brabant; and in an attempt made to pass the Waal on rafts, they were repulsed by the British and German troops. At length, a harder frost than had been experienced for several years having set in about the middle of December, the French were enabled to transport a numerous army over the ice of the Waal before the end of the month, and carried all the posts in the isle of Bommel. A gallant attack on December 30th by 8000 British troops under General Dundas forced them to re-cross the Waal with considerable loss, but this was only a temporary success. Their numbers rendered them irresistible, and on January 4th a part of Pichegru's army made good their passage without opposition. The British forces soon after began a retreat by the Leck, and were closely pursued by the enemy. General Walmoden, on whom the chief command devolved, the Duke of York having returned to England, took post between Arnheim and Nimeguen, where he was attacked by Pichegru, and obliged to retire with the loss of his camp equipage. The subsequent retreat of the British army to Deventer on January 16th, across a barren heath, without a tent or a hut to shelter them, in an evening of the most rigorous frost and driving snow, surpassed in calamity almost every scene of the kind which has afforded matter for description. Their sufferings from the weather, the pursuing enemy, and the inhospitality of a country not less hostile, did not cease till their arrival at Bremen, where at length they embarked for England, leaving a continent where British valour had no longer any field of exercise.

The French took immediate possession of Utrecht and Rotterdam; and the Stadtholder, universally deserted, escaped with difficulty from the Hague to Scheveling, where, with his son, he embarked in an open boat on January 19th, and on the following day reached Harwich. So far from any resistance being made to

the French, Pichegru received a formal invitation to Amsterdam, which capital he entered at the head of 5000 men on January 20th, and was received with general acclamations. He issued a proclamation declaring the freedom and independence of the United Provinces; a form of provisional government was organized; and in a short time four of the most important provinces were without opposition actually occupied by the French. The strongly fortified towns in Dutch Brabant also opened their gates to the victors. A requisition of clothes and provisions for the use of the French army, to the estimated value of 1,400,000*l.* soon made the Dutch sensible of the cost of their new alliance; the republican party, however, was flattered by the convocation of a representative assembly, which abolished the Stadtholderate and all the forms of the preceding constitution, published a declaration of the rights of man, annulled the sentences passed against the patriots of 1787, and recalled all the exiles.

This important event was soon followed by a peace between the French republic and the King of Prussia. A preparatory intercourse had been carrying on during the last year, and it had become evident that Prussia only waited for a plausible pretext for quitting the coalition. The treaty, which was completed in April, was entirely in favour of France, all the Prussian territory on the left bank of the Rhine being ceded to it, whilst that on the right was restored to Prussia. A cessation of hostilities was agreed upon for the north of Germany, which was to be considered as neutral ground; and the sovereign princes on the right side of the Rhine were to be entitled to make proposals to France under the mediation of Prussia. Thus the republic had the satisfaction of being acknowledged by the power which had stood foremost in the confederacy against her, with the prospect of making it the medium of a general pacification.

Spain, totally dispirited by the events of the last campaign, its pecuniary resources exhausted, and possessing no means to prevent the advance of the enemy

even to her capital, found it necessary to sue for peace on such terms as she could obtain. By a treaty concluded in July, France was to restore all her conquests in the Peninsula, and to be indemnified by the cession of all the Spanish part of Hispaniola, with its artillery and military stores. Spain was to recognize the French and Batavian republics, and to employ all its influence for detaching Portugal from its alliance with Great Britain against France. Thus another member of the hostile coalition was converted in effect to an ally.

Among the advantages obtained by the republic, a pacification with the heads of the Vendean and Chouan insurgents, concluded in February, might be reckoned one of the most important, since it terminated a domestic war more dangerous to the new government than any foreign confederacy. But this tranquillity was not durable. These people, still royalists in their hearts, were under the influence of their leaders, who maintained a correspondence with the French princes, and were liberally supplied with English gold and paper. Complaints of the violation of conditions were made on both sides; correspondences of the disaffected with the emigrants were discovered, and some of the Chouan chiefs were on that account taken into custody; and about the close of May the Chouans again rose in arms. An armament had in the meantime been preparing in England to assist the projected insurrection, and in the beginning of June it sailed for the coast of Britany under the command of Sir J. Borlase Warren. A landing of about 3000 men was effected in Quiberon bay, who, having taken a fort, were joined by a great number of the country people, to whom arms were profusely distributed. After some skirmishes, in which most of the French, who had been taken out of English prisons, deserted, General Hoche, the republican commander, made a nocturnal attack upon the adverse camp, in which the greater part of the emigrant troops were killed or taken prisoners. Among the latter was the Count Sombreuil, a young nobleman

who had obtained high esteem in England, and who was sentenced to death and shot at Vannes, with the Bishop of Dol, and many others. A great booty was made by the victors, consisting of clothing and accoutrements for 40,000 men, which had been landed from the fleet for the use of the numerous royalists who were expected to join the emigrants. Charges of gross mismanagement were the consequence of this unfortunate expedition; in which too much confidence had undoubtedly been given to the usual sanguine hopes and exaggerated representations of an exiled party. The British squadron remained sometime longer on the coast, and took possession of Isle Dieu, which caused the French government to station a good number of troops in those parts.

The operations of the French army on the side of the Netherlands began with the siege of Luxemburg, which was defended by a garrison of 10,000 men under General Bender. Being entirely cut off from succours, he capitulated on June 7th, on condition that the garrison should be allowed to retire to Germany, not to serve against the French till exchanged. There now remained for the complete extension of the boundary of France to the Rhine, only the acquisition of Mentz, and this enterprize was not undertaken till August. It was commenced by the capture of Dusseldorf, after which, Pichegru crossed the Rhine, and took possession of Manheim. General Wurmser in the meantime advancing to the relief of that city, a French division was detached to prevent his junction with Clairfait, who put the Austrians to the rout; but whilst they were engaged in plunder, Wurmser's cavalry rallied, and drove the French back to Manheim. Jourdan having now crossed the Mayne, invested Mentz on the right side of the Rhine; but his rear being attacked by Clairfait who took the train of battering cannon, he was obliged to re-cross the Mayne. Pichegru also found it necessary to re-cross the Rhine; leaving a garrison in Manheim; and all the French works before Mentz were afterwards carried by the

Austrians, and their artillery was captured. Clairfait and Wurmser then uniting, they recovered the Palatinate and the greatest part of the country between the Rhine and Moselle. The career of the Austrians was at length stopped by Jourdan and Pichegru, but they could not prevent the recapture of Mannheim with its garrison. The Austrians afterwards made an attempt to penetrate to Luxemburg, but in this they were foiled; and the ground was disputed by the two armies with much bloodshed, till the severity of winter brought on a suspension of hostilities.

On the Italian frontier the Austrians had the superiority in strength during this campaign, and all that the French could do was to maintain themselves in the posts which they had before occupied.

The domestic politics of the French in this year partook of the turbulence and violent movements of the parties which still divided the nation. The destruction of Robespierre and his principal associates had not so far quelled their principles, but that a considerable number of terrorists, as they were called, still subsisted; and the hatred with which they were regarded by the majority in the convention, and the public at large, occasioned much reciprocal rancour and abuse. Some members of the committee of safety, who had been accused as partners in the crimes of Robespierre, but acquitted, were still objects of denunciation; and upon a further enquiry, it was decreed by the convention that there was ground for examining into the conduct of Barrere, Billaud Varennes, Vaudier, and Collot d'Herbois, the latter of whom was particularly infamous for the barbarities which he had practised at Lyons. The result was, that they were put upon their trial; but whilst it was pending, the Jacobins, taking advantage of the popular discontent from the scarcity of bread, incited an insurrection, in which a mob broke into the hall of the convention, and threatened the members. The riot was at length suppressed by the exertions of the armed citizens, and the convention proceeded to sentence the

accused persons to transportation to Guiana. A number of others who had belonged to the mountain party were arrested and imprisoned. These measures occasioned a still more violent insurrection, originating in the factious suburb of St. Antoine, during which the greater part of the convention was obliged to withdraw for safety, and the hall was left in possession of the opposite party. After raging for three days, and endangering the whole city, it was quelled by the troops of the convention. Disturbances were at the same period excited in various parts of France by the Jacobins on one side, and their opponents on the other, which were not suppressed without bloodshed.

On June 9th, the unfortunate son of Louis XVI. died under confinement at the Temple, in his 12th year. It is reported that he was treated with much inhumanity; but probably a feeble constitution, joined to residence in a prison, were the causes of his early death. The convention afterwards finding the public commiseration raised for the sufferings of this unhappy family, agreed to liberate the daughter of the late King, and entered into a negotiation with the Austrian court, by which she was exchanged for the commissioners delivered up by Dumouriez, and two French ambassadors to the Ottoman court, who had been seized on neutral ground.

The convention was now actively employed in framing a new constitution which it was hoped might conciliate the jarring parties of the nation. The business was assigned to eleven members, who, on June 3d, laid before that assembly the result of their labours. Its essential parts were the establishment of a legislative body, consisting of two elected chambers, one of seniors, 250 in number, the other of juniors, 500 in number, one-third of each chamber to be renewed every year; and an executive of five persons, nominated by the legislative, and styled the directory. Provision was made for public education; perfect equality was declared among all the citizens, with the exception of public functionaries in the discharge of their office;

religious vows inconsistent with the rights of man were disallowed; and freedom of religion, and of speaking and writing, were established.

This constitution appears to have been generally approved by those who were attached to a republican government; but a decree, passed by the convention previously to its adoption, was the cause of a very serious disturbance. That body, actuated either by a regard to the public safety, or by personal ambition, determined that the electoral bodies should choose two-thirds of the deputies forming the legislative, out of the members of the subsisting convention, and that in default of this election they should fill up the vacancies themselves. This decree, when transmitted to the primary assemblies, excited vehement censure, as being an usurpation on the national rights; and the Parisian electors assembled on their own accord before the time fixed upon for that purpose. They were for the present dispersed by a military force, but discontent generally prevailed in the capital, and at length broke out into open resistance. On the night of October 4th the different sections of Paris beat to arms, and at noon on the next day they were arranged in fighting order, and took possession of several posts. A bloody conflict now took place between the citizens and the regular army, near the hall of the convention, which, after the loss of about a thousand lives, ended in the total rout of the Parisians. It was on this occasion that Napoleon Buonaparte first distinguished himself as a commander by his intrepidity and conduct. Tranquillity was restored, and the constitution and decree for election were acquiesced in; and on October 26th the convention resigned its authority, which it had possessed for more than three years, to the new legislature.

The five directors who now assumed the reins of executive government were Reubel, Latourneur, Barras, Sieyes, and Larevelliere Lepaux. They were installed with regal pomp, had guards assigned to them, and on public occasions appeared with all the appendages of

sovereignty. They began their administration with a conciliatory address to the departments, assuring them of the future exercise of impartial justice; and to suppress the machinations of the remaining violent party, they put down a society called the Pantheon, which was the Jacobin club revived. The foundation of the national institute, an establishment in which were consolidated the former celebrated academies of sciences and polite literature, and which consisted of 144 members, many of them celebrated throughout Europe; and the institution of central schools for the superior branches of education in each department; honourably testified the enlarged views of the new authorities.

Previously to this change of government, various treaties with foreign powers added to the strength of the French government. Besides those with Prussia and Spain already mentioned, a peace was concluded with the Grand Duke of Tuscany, who relinquished his alliance with the coalesced powers. Sweden and the protestant cantons of Switzerland recognized the republic; and the landgrave of Hesse Cassel, and the Elector of Hanover, agreed to furnish no more troops to the coalition. An alliance offensive and defensive was entered into between the republics of France and the United Provinces, which last were, in fact, entirely a dependency of the former. The Austrian Netherlands, by a decree of the convention a short time before its dissolution, were incorporated with France.

Early in the year, the French made great efforts for the recovery of their possessions in the West Indies. Having taken St. Eustatius and put it into a state of powerful defence, they planned, under the direction of Victor Hugues, a general revolt against the British government in all the French islands. Emissaries were sent among the negroes and people of colour, and correspondences were set on foot with the disaffected French, in order that all might be prepared for simultaneous action. In St. Lucia the insurrection broke out so suddenly, that the English garrison was overpowered, and that part of it which retreated to the fort,

after a blockade of three months, quitted the island. The attempts made at Grenada, Dominica, and St. Vincent, though attended with temporary success, were finally defeated; but in the latter, the revolted Caribbs maintained their ground within their own limits. In Jamaica a bloody and cruel war long subsisted with the Maroons, or the descendants of revolted negroes in the Spanish times, in which they were nearly exterminated.

After Lord Howe's victory no wish was entertained by the French navy of fairly meeting the English again in a general engagement, and the actions of this year at sea were casual or partial rencontres. On March 14th a British squadron of 14 ships of the line, commanded by Admiral Hotham, fell in off Genoa with a French squadron of 15 ships of the line, which was conveying a large body of troops to Corsica for the recapture of that island. By the skilful manœuvres of the English commander, two of the French ships were cut off from the fleet and captured, with 420 soldiers on board; and the remainder taking refuge in Toulon, the expedition was frustrated.

On June 23d Admiral Lord Bridport with 14 ships of the line and 8 frigates encountered off Port L'Orient a French squadron of 12 ships of the line and 11 frigates, and engaging them close in shore, and assisted by their own batteries, captured three ships of the line, and greatly damaged the others, which with difficulty escaped into port.

The most important exploit of the British arms during this year was the reduction of the Dutch colony of the Cape of Good Hope. The governor of that settlement having rejected the proposal made to him, that it should be placed under the protection of Great Britain, an expedition under the command of Major-General Craig, and Vice-Admiral Sir G. Keith Elphinstone, took possession of Simon's-town on July 14th. The troops advancing towards the Cape town, carried the strong post of Muijsenberg on the road to it, where General Craig waited for an expected reinforcement. This arrived on September 3d from St. Salvador, under the command

of Major-General Alured Clarke; and the whole force proceeding to the Cape, the town and castle surrendered on the 23d.

The remaining domestic occurrences of the year afforded matter of considerable interest. Various circumstances had inspired a spirit of discontent in the English populace, especially in the metropolis. The cruel and illegal practices of crimps for the recruiting service had occasioned several violent tumults; and the increasing scarcity of provisions aggravated the public ill-humour. The successes of the French, and the defection among the powers allied against them, had rendered the war so hopeless, that a petition to the legislature for peace had past in the Common-hall of London by a vast majority, and was imitated by several other cities and towns. The ministry and supporters of the war became of course, more unpopular, and the reforming societies acted with increased boldness. That which was denominated the Corresponding Society held several public meetings, one of which, in the fields near Copenhagen House, was computed to be attended by fifty thousand people, and was distinguished by the daring spirit of the addresses made to the multitude. In this state of things, the autumnal session of parliament was opened on October 29th, when the King going through the park to the House of Lords, was surrounded by a throng of persons of all ranks, who clamorously demanded peace and the dismissal of Mr. Pitt. In his progress, one of the glasses of his coach was broken by a bullet; and on his return he was treated with much rudeness and indignity.

The royal speech began by noticing the disappointments which the French had met with in Germany, and the internal difficulties under which they laboured, from which was deduced a presumption that they would listen to equitable and moderate terms of peace. At the same time the necessity of a vigorous prosecution of the war till that effect took place was adverted to, and especially the propriety of improving our naval superiority. It was further mentioned, that the acts of hos-

tility committed by the United Provinces since they were under the controul of France had obliged his Majesty to treat them as in a state of war with this country; and that a defensive alliance had been concluded with the two imperial courts; and a treaty of commerce had been ratified with the United States of America.

When the usual addresses were moved, debates occurred in both Houses, in which it may be readily supposed that the opposition would avail itself of the altered tone of the ministry respecting France, and the failure of all their predictions concerning the result of the powerful coalition against it. The addresses were however carried by nearly the usual majorities.

The outrages offered to his Majesty were taken into immediate consideration, and a particular address on the occasion was voted by both Houses in concurrence. It was followed by a bill introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Grenville "for the safety and preservation of his Majesty's person and government against treasonable and seditious practices and attempts." On the same day Mr. Pitt in the House of Commons moved that the royal proclamations issued in consequence of the late riot should be taken into consideration, which being carried, he moved for a bill "for the prevention of seditious meetings." These two bills had for their object the restriction of the right hitherto possessed by the people of assembling for the purpose of petitioning the crown and legislature, and of discussing political subjects. They were warmly opposed in each stage of their passage through both Houses, as violent and unnecessary encroachments on the privileges granted by the constitution, but were carried through by more than the common majorities; such was the impression made by the insults with which the King had been treated, and by the intemperate proceedings of the popular societies. Their duration, however, was limited to three years.

On December 8th a message from the King was brought to parliament, in which it was said that the

present order of things in France was such as would induce his Majesty to meet any disposition for negotiation on the part of the enemy with an earnest desire to give it the fullest effect. An address was thereupon moved by Mr. Pitt, which occasioned some remarks on the futility of pretending that any change in the French government had rendered them more fit to be negotiated with at present than they were before. The address was however carried in both Houses. Parliament then broke up for the holidays.

In this year the party divisions in Geneva, which had been fermenting ever since the commencement of the French revolution, broke out into a furious tumult, in which the constitution was changed into a pure democracy, and a revolutionary tribunal was established, which capitally condemned several of the principal citizens, and banished, or imprisoned a great many more.

A. D. 1796.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 36 & 37.

———— PARLIAMENT 6 & 1.

Remaining Parliamentary Proceedings. — Entire Reduction of the Chouans and Vendéans. — Buonaparte sent to command in Italy. — Obliges the King of Sardinia to sue for Peace — Savoy annexed to the French Territory. — Buonaparte's further Progress — Submission of the Duke of Parma. — Battle of Lodi. — French enter Milan. — Duke of Modena submits. — Insurrection in Lombardy suppressed. — Verona taken and Mantua invested. — Papal Territory invaded, and the Pope obliged to purchase an Armistice on hard Terms. — Suspension of Arms between the French and the King of Naples. — Marshal Wurmser's Campaign in Italy and final Retreat. — British expelled from Corsica. — Austrians totally defeated at Arcola. — Campaign in Germany. — Successes of Jourdan, Kleber, and Moreau. — The Duke of Wurtemberg and Margrave of Baden obliged to abandon the Confederacy. — The Emperor obtains Aid from Bohemia and Hungary, and the Archduke Charles drives Jourdan back across the Rhine. — Moreau's masterly Retreat. — Armistice on the Lower Rhine. — Spain and the Batavian Republic declare War against England. — The Dutch Settlements in the East Indies taken by the British. — Success of the latter in the West Indies. — Capture of a Dutch Expedition in Saldanha Bay. — Success of the French at Newfoundland. — Internal Disorders in France. — Financial Difficulties. — Projects for ruining the British Commerce. — Negotiations for Peace. — Lord Malmsbury sent to Paris. — Conditions proposed by him: returns without Effect. — Differences between France and the United States of America. — New Parliament and King's Speech. — Mr. Pitt's Plan for augmenting the National Force. — Financial Measures. — Motion by Mr. Fox against an Advance of Money to the Emperor without Consent of Parliament. — Circular of the Duke of Portland respecting Invasion. — French Expedition to Bantry Bay. — Death of the King of Sardinia, and of Catharine of Russia; and Retirement of Washington.

THE remaining proceedings of Parliament during the winter and spring session afforded few matters worthy of commemoration. Taxes were a principal topic of discussion, the hitherto unprecedented introduction of

two loans in one session, amounting together to twenty-five and a half millions, having rendered it necessary to propose various new objects of taxation. Attacks were made on the ministry relative to several circumstances in the conduct of the war, but they were so well fenced by decisive majorities, that their stability was not in the least affected by such skirmishing. The session closed as early as May 19th, with a speech from the throne, in which allusion was made to the happy effects experienced from the provisions adopted for suppressing sedition, and restraining the progress of principles subversive of all established government. An intention was disclosed of calling a new parliament; and the highest encomiums were bestowed on the conduct of the present parliament through all the unprecedented difficulties which had occurred from the time of its first assembling.

The French government, previously to entering upon the plan which they had formed for the continental campaign, determined to put a period to those domestic disturbances which had so long impeded the foreign exertions of the new republic. The Vendéans and Chouans, still unalterably attached to the cause of royalty, and maintaining connections with the enemies of the existing authority, remained in arms under their leaders Charette and Stofflet, though their hostilities were now confined to petty and cursory actions. Hoche, the republican commander-in-chief, found it no easy task to clear the country of the numerous and scattered bands of insurgents; and much reciprocal loss was sustained in a species of warfare in which quarter was rarely given, and opportunity was afforded of every kind of annoyance. At length Charette was totally defeated, his followers completely dispersed, and after wandering some time in the disguise of a peasant, he was discovered and taken. Being tried and condemned, he was executed at Nantes on April 28th. Stofflet, who had also been made prisoner, suffered death two months before; and of the other leaders, thirteen fell in battle, and ten others were executed. The directory then tried

lenient methods for bringing over the remaining malcontents, which so well succeeded, that at the end of April no others remained in arms than a few who had taken to a predatory way of life.

The last campaign on the Rhine having terminated to the advantage of the Austrians, who were preparing to cross that river in great force, it was determined by the French government to make a powerful diversion in Italy to the Emperor's arms, and to cut off his supplies from that country. The directory, therefore, after issuing an animated address to the different armies previously to their taking the field, placed a body of veteran troops somewhat exceeding 50,000 men under the command of Buonaparte, who had acquired their confidence by his behaviour at the Paris insurrection, and had established a high reputation by the display, on different occasions, of those extraordinary talents for war which afterwards raised him to the summit of power and fame. He began his operations in the month of April by advancing from the neighbourhood of Genoa against General Beaulieu, who, with a combined army of Piedmontese and Austrians, was posted on the opposite ridge of mountains. In the space of five days the French gained three victories. The Piedmontese, being afterwards separated from the Austrians, were obliged after two defeats to retire to the vicinity of Turin; and the King of Sardinia found himself in so hazardous a situation, that he made overtures to Buonaparte for a peace. In order to obtain a suspension of arms he was obliged to deliver two strong towns to the French by way of pledges, and to send commissioners to treat at Paris. The Austrians, thus deprived of their ally, fell back to the Milanese, and crossed the Po. The King of Sardinia was constrained to submit to such conditions of peace as the conquerors pleased to impose, which were, that he should cede to them Savoy, with the city and territory of Nice, and a tract of land named by the French the department of the Maritime Alps. A new frontier was arranged, much to the advantage of the republic; and the King consented to withdraw from the

coalition, and to make an apology for his past hostility. By this event the barrier of the Alps interposed between France and Italy was effectually broken.

Buonaparte immediately after the suspension of arms with the Sardinians, advanced against the Austrians, and having crossed the Po opposite Placentia, defeated two divisions of their troops which opposed his progress, and struck so much terror into the Duke of Parma, that he requested an armistice. This was granted only on the terms of his paying a large contribution, and delivering to the French twenty capital paintings to be chosen by them, and also of his sending commissioners to treat of peace at Paris. The road being now open to Milan, Buonaparte resolved to signalize himself by the reduction of that capital of Austrian Lombardy. Beaulieu interposed to save it, by occupying the town of Lodi, and its bridge across the Adda. On May 10th, the French General arrived at the spot, and led in person the flower of his troops to the attack of the bridge, defended by all the Austrian artillery. The fire was tremendous, but nothing could resist the impetuosity of the assailants. The bridge was carried, the Austrian line on the opposite side was forced, and Beaulieu retreated under the cover of night. He withdrew towards Mantua pursued by the enemy; and Buonaparte, with the main army, after taking Pavia, entered Milan five days subsequently to the battle. A detachment of the French having occupied the Duchy of Modena, its sovereign, who had fled to Venice, sent a minister to request a suspension of hostilities, which was granted on terms similar to those required of the Duke of Parma.

The exactions of the French, their spoliations of the precious remains of art, their manners and principles, and their enmity to the nobility and clergy, excited such an odium against them in Italy, that a general insurrection was planned in the parts of Lombardy of which they had taken possession, which was to break out on the 21th of May. Buonaparte, who had left Milan immediately upon receiving the intelligence of

its commencement, hastened back to that city, and by measures of severity reduced it to order. He then proceeded to Pavia, where the insurgents had seized the citadel, making prisoners of the French garrison. The gates were soon burst open, and the men set free; and the promoters of the insurrection being shot, a number of hostages were taken for the peaceable behaviour of the other citizens. By measures of equal vigour the country was reduced to submission, and the general proceeded to the prosecution of his other designs.

The Austrians having withdrawn the relics of their forces into the Venetian territory, Buonaparte resolved to pursue them thither, after giving notice of his intention to the Senate of Venice. That body, whose policy it has always been to pay the greatest deference to power, on the approach of the French gave notice to the eldest brother of the late King of France, then called by the royalists Louis XVIII. to quit their territories in which he had taken shelter; they had however connived at the taking possession of Peschiera by Beau-lieu. The French drove him from thence, when he crossed the Adige, breaking down its bridges to secure his retreat into Tyrol. On June 3d, Buonaparte occupied Verona, and on the following day invested Mantua. He was however unable to do more than blockade the place, being obliged to send large detachments of his army to repress the hostility of the districts called the Imperial Fiefs. He then invaded the Papal territory, and took possession of several of its principal towns; and the Pope, being entirely without the means of resistance, sued for an armistice, which was granted upon the conditions of his surrendering Bologna, Ferrara, and their territories, with the citadel of Ancona, and yielding up a large number of pictures and statues, and some hundreds of manuscripts from the Vatican.

A suspension of arms was concluded with the King of Naples upon more equal terms. In order to deprive the English commerce of access to the north of Italy, the directory caused the port of Leghorn to be occupied by French troops. The castle of Milan capitulated to

them on June 30th, with a vast quantity of artillery and military stores.

Marshal Wurmser, who had been appointed to succeed Beaulieu in the chief command of the Austrian troops in Italy, advanced through Tyrol in the meantime with a German army of veterans, for the purpose of raising the siege of Mantua. He dislodged the French from some of their positions, and Buonaparte found it necessary to quit Mantua on July 13th, and march to Brescia. A series of combats ensued for five successive days, the result of which was the total discomfiture of the Austrians; and their strong line on the Mincio and fortified camp at Peschiera being carried on the two following days, Wurmser retreated in disorder towards Tyrol. Taking post at Bassano, he received powerful reinforcements, which enabled him again to advance; but another complete defeat on September 4th, obliged the Austrians to retire through Trent, which they evacuated, when it was occupied by the French. Buonaparte still pursuing Wurmser, attacked and defeated him with great loss at Bassano. The sole remaining resource of the Austrian general was to escape with the wreck of his forces into Mantua, which with difficulty he effected. Attempting to maintain his station in its suburbs, he was furiously attacked by the French, and obliged to take shelter within the walls; and the close siege of that city recommenced.

The rapid and brilliant successes of the French under a native of Corsica increased the adherents to France in that island, and determined them to excite an insurrection against the new British government. Some Corsican exiles and French landing in October, were joined by a multitude of the inhabitants, and marching to Bastia, they summoned the English garrison to surrender. This was however embarked on board the ships in the harbour, and conveyed to Porto Ferraio in the isle of Elba, then occupied by a British force; and thus terminated the short-lived English kingdom of Corsica, with its constitution.

Wurmser's fugitive army being again recruited, advanced against the French, who fell back to the Adige, and Trent was recovered by the Austrians. Marshal Alvinzi, now the commander-in-chief, at the head of another army, approached Verona; when Buonaparte crossed the Adige on November 14th, and marched to meet him. The route of the French lay through the village of Arcola, seated in a marsh, and accessible only by a causeway. This spot, on the three following days, was the scene of an engagement, more bloody and obstinately contested than any which had hitherto been fought between the two powers. It terminated in a complete but dearly bought victory to the French, and an almost ruinous loss to the Austrian army. General Davidovich advancing on another quarter towards Mantua, was opposed by a large French detachment and routed; and that city was left without hope of further succour.

In Germany, the campaign was opened on the part of the French by some successes against parties of the Austrians, after which Jourdan invested the strong fortress of Ehrenbreitstein. The Archduke Charles, who commanded the imperial army, advancing to the Rhine, gave a defeat to the French under Lefebvre at Wetzlar, which induced Jourdan, relinquishing his attempt, to take a position to oppose the Archduke. Moreau, in the meantime, crossing the Rhine at Strasburg, carried the fort of Kehl, and advanced through a series of victories into Swabia. Jourdan and Kleber, proceeding in another direction, took Frankfort, Wurtzburg, and Bamberg. Moreau then made himself master of Freyburg in the Brisgaw, and of Stuttgart, the capital of the Duchy of Wurtemberg, which successes obliged the Duke of Wurtemberg and the Margrave of Baden to negotiate with the directory for a cessation of hostilities, which was granted them on the condition of totally separating themselves from the enemies of the republic. The Duke was also obliged to cede to France his territories on the left side of the Rhine. Large contributions

were moreover demanded by the French from all the districts occupied by their armies, it being their constant policy to make a war support itself; hence the inhabitants, however at first disposed to favour their cause, always in the end became their foes. Moreau, having completed the reduction of Swabia by the capture of Ulm and Donawert, forced a passage across the Leck into Bavaria. Jourdan on the other side drove before him the Imperial forces under Wartensleben, and entered Bavaria on its northern border. The empire was now seriously alarmed, and the Diet, assembled at Ratisbon, determined to open a negotiation with the French. The Emperor, meantime, made a solemn appeal to his Bohemian and Hungarian subjects, urging them to arm for the defence of their property and religion, and his call was attended to. The Archduke hastened to the aid of Wartensleben, hard pressed by Jourdan, who had gained several advantages over him. A junction being made of the two armies, which left the Austrians much superior to the French, the Archduke marched against Jourdan, whom he obliged to commence a retreat. This he conducted with ability, but not without great loss, every day's march being an action. It was concluded on September 17, when the French army crossed the Rhine.

The Archduke then turned to Moreau, who was successfully contending against the Austrians in Bavaria. This able general, finding it impossible for him to maintain himself in the heart of Germany after the expulsion of Jourdan, began a retrograde march from Ingoldstadt on September 10th, and retired in a leisurely and orderly manner, defeating all the Austrian corps which attempted to oppose him. At length, after a retreat which vies with the most celebrated achievements of this kind in military history, and in which several of the actions were, on his part signal victories, he re-crossed the Rhine at Hunningen on October 26th, having first garrisoned Fort Kehl. The Austrians laid siege to it, and its attack and defence occasioned many sanguinary encounters.

to the close of the year. On the Lower Rhine an armistice took place in the middle of December. Thus terminated the German campaign, which, whilst it operated as a powerful diversion in favour of the French in Italy, was upon the whole highly advantageous to the imperial cause.

War was declared against Great Britain by the Batavian republic in May, and by Spain in October.

The military transactions of this year in which England was concerned, were almost entirely in her favour. In the East Indies, the Dutch settlements in Ceylon, with Malacca, Cochin, Chinsura, Amboyna, and Banda, were taken possession of without resistance by British troops in the end of 1795, and the beginning of 1796. In the West Indies, Grenada was recovered in the month of March from the French insurgents, by General Nichols; and St. Lucie was reduced in May by General Abercromby. The Dutch settlements of Demerary and Essequibo in South America were taken by General Whyte. The unfortunate island of St. Domingo, which the French decrees had chiefly thrown into the hands of the negroes, was torn in pieces by internal dissensions. The French held but a small part; and the English, who had occupied some strong posts, were wasted away by the diseases of the climate.

The most brilliant naval successes of the year took place at the Cape of Good Hope. A fleet of Dutch ships of war, with troops on board for the recovery of that settlement, sailed from the Texel in March, expecting to have been joined by a French squadron, but the junction was not effected. The fleet put in at Saldanha bay, where, in August, it was blocked up by the British squadron at the Cape under Admiral Elphinstone, and the whole armament surrendered without resistance. It consisted of three ships of the line, three frigates, and some smaller vessels, with 2000 land forces. The only maritime success obtained by the French was a sweep of shipping and merchandize to a great amount, and the destruction of other

property, at Newfoundland in August by Admiral Richery, who returned to France without the loss of a single vessel.

The internal state of France in this year was far from tranquil, parties still raging, animated by the characteristic impetuosity of the nation, while the frequent changes of government, and the want of solid principles, had left men's minds afloat with respect to the most important points of civil polity. A revival of the reign of terror was attempted in the south of France by Freron, who had been sent to exercise the supreme authority in those parts, which occasioned much disorder. On the other hand, the Jacobins, disgusted with the system of moderation upon which the directory acted, formed a deep conspiracy for an insurrection in Paris, which was discovered but a short time before the intended execution. The credit of the nation ran so low, that assignats had lost all their value, and great difficulties occurred in raising the necessary supplies. The sale of national property, or the confiscated estates of emigrants, which had been reckoned upon as a considerable resource, was much impeded by the denunciations of the non-juring clergy against such purchases, so that many remained unsold. These clergy were, of course, very obnoxious to the government, and efforts were made to establish a new ecclesiastical system upon a plan conformable to the present constitution of the country, which should possess respectability enough to influence the public mind; but popularity was still attached to the non-juring party. The spirit of moderation, however, was upon the whole gaining ground, and the nation was in general little disposed to a renewal of the horrors it had experienced.

The power and wealth of Great Britain being manifestly the greatest obstacle to the ambitious projects of France, to overthrow the foundations of her prosperity, and reduce her to the common level, was a leading object of French policy. Ideas were studiously inculcated in publications, that England was the

tyrant of the sea, and other nations were invited to make common cause against her naval domination. Her commerce being the basis of this superiority, plans were laid for throwing every possible impediment in its way: and the republic not being able to shut the ports of the rest of Europe against her commodities, a severe decree was issued, prohibiting their admission into any part of France or its dependencies, among which Holland might now be reckoned. The mission from England of an envoy to the court of Berlin particularly irritated the directory, as they concluded its purpose to have been the re-union of Prussia to the coalition; and its failure was regarded as the cause of the overtures made by the British ministry for a negotiation to treat on conditions of peace. The directory, however, not choosing to appear adverse to the termination of so burdensome a war, granted the desired passport for an agent from England, and on October 22d, Lord Malmsbury arrived at Paris in quality of negotiator, where he was received with every public demonstration of joy. On opening his commission, he proposed mutual restitution of conquests as the fundamental principle of a treaty; and observed, that as the successes of England had placed her out of the condition of requiring restitutions for herself, whereas France had made large acquisitions from her allies, the negotiation would of course turn upon the compensations France would expect for the restitutions she was to make to them. The directory replied, that the accession of other powers to a business which he was authorized to transact separately between Great Britain and France would necessarily retard the progress of the negotiation; but they would consent, upon his procuring credentials from those allies, to take into consideration any specific proposals he might have to lay before them. After much discussion of this point, Lord Malmsbury being required to mention the compensations to which he had alluded, proposed the restitution of what had been taken from the Emperor, and the restoration of the Prince of Orange to the stad-

holderate of the Seven Provinces, the accession of Russia to the treaty, and the including of Portugal, without any indemnity demanded by France : in return, Great Britain to restore its conquests in both the Indies, receiving, however, an equivalent for the part of Hispaniola ceded by Spain to France. The directory then required from him that the whole of his demands should be stated in 24 hours, and also signified that they could listen to no terms inconsistent with the constitution, and the engagements formed by the republic; and upon his saying that their requisition precluded all further negotiation, and that their own proposals ought to be communicated to his constituents, they observed, that his powers being inadequate to the conducting of a treaty, his residence in Paris was totally unnecessary, and abruptly ordered him to depart in 48 hours. Thus was concluded a kind of attempt at a treaty, so unpromising from its commencement, that it is difficult to suppose one party at least in earnest.

The directory at this time took a high tone with all foreign powers. They particularly showed their resentment against the United States of America on account of the treaty lately concluded by them with England, which they considered almost as a renunciation of their amity with France, and an act of base ingratitude. On the other hand, the Americans found cause of complaint in the conduct of the French resident, Genet, who had used all his endeavours to foment party differences among them, and introduce the French principles of government; and although the resident had been recalled, the divisions he had promoted continued to be a source of mischief. The connivance of the American government at the seizure of French property on board of American vessels in their very ports, by the English, was also resented by the directory, who made known their determination of issuing orders to the French ships of war, to act towards neutral trading vessels in the same manner as they permitted themselves to be treated by the British navy. Mr. Pinkney having, in November,

been sent as the American minister at Paris in the room of Mr. Monroe, who was thought better affected to the interest of France, the directory refused to admit him in that capacity, and afterwards would not permit him to remain there even as a private person.

The new parliament assembled on October 6th, and was opened by a speech from the throne, in which his Majesty announced his determination of immediately sending a person to Paris for the purpose of commencing negotiations for peace (this was the mission of Lord Malmesbury above mentioned): at the same time adverting to the necessity of increased energy in providing means for resisting the enemy, as an intention was manifested of attempting a descent upon these kingdoms. He spoke of the successes of our arms in the East and West Indies, and referred with high encomium to the exertions of Austria in this campaign under the auspicious conduct of the Archduke Charles. The usual addresses passed without a division; the leaders of opposition, however, not neglecting to make use of the circumstance of entering upon negotiations for peace at this period, as an acknowledgement from ministers that the original objections to the war had been well founded. On taking into consideration that part of the speech which related to the threats of invasion, Mr. Pitt proposed a plan for augmenting the national force, consisting of a levy of 15,000 men from the parishes, to be divided between the sea and land service, and a supplemental levy of 60,000 for the militia, and 20,000 for the irregular cavalry, not to be immediately called out, but enrolled and gradually trained. Some observations were made upon different parts of this plan, but it was not opposed.

The budget for the ensuing year was laid before the House on December 7th, in which the supply required was stated at nearly 28 millions. Among the ways and means were a loan of 18 millions, and a number of new taxes, chiefly additions on those before imposed. The discovery that the minister had already made an advance to the Emperor of 1,200,000*l.* without consent of par-

liament produced a motion from Mr. Fox, "That his Majesty's ministers having authorised and directed, at different times, and without the consent and during the sitting of parliament, the issue of various sums of money for the service of his Imperial Majesty, and also for the service of the army under the Prince of Condé, have acted contrary to their duty, and to the trust reposed in them, and have therefore violated the constitutional privileges of this House." This motion was met by an amendment for the entire justification of the ministers in this transaction, by Mr. Bragge; and a very animated debate ensued, in which the strength of both parties was fully exerted. Among other strong expressions, Mr. Fox in his concluding speech said, "That if the measure which formed the subject of debate was not reprobated, he should think that man a hypocrite who pretended to see any distinction between this government and an absolute monarchy." On the division, Mr. Bragge's amendment was carried by 185 against 104.

The alarm respecting an invasion which prevailed towards the close of the year was denoted by a circular letter from the Duke of Portland, secretary of state, to the lieutenants of counties, on the English sea-coast, dated November 5th, recommending an account to be taken of live and dead stock in the parishes within 12 miles of the sea, and desiring such lieutenants to communicate with the commanders in chief of the districts respecting the measures to be employed for the removal of stock if necessary. The real danger, however, was not in this quarter. An armament had been preparing at Brest during the whole summer, to consist of 25 ships of the line, and a number of frigates, with transports for the conveyance of 25,000 men under the command of General Hoche. The destination was Ireland, in which country the disaffection known to prevail might authorize the expectation that a force of such a magnitude would greatly embarrass, and perhaps overturn, the existing government. Various accidents prevented the sailing of the armament till December 18th, and in going out of harbour, some of the largest

ships struck on the rocks, and were lost or disabled. On the following day a violent storm dispersed the fleet, and damaged many of the ships, so that on the 24th no more than seven of the line and ten others were brought to anchor in Bantry Bay under Admiral Bouvet. After lying some days in the Bay, the stormy weather continuing, with no account of Hoche, who was in a separate frigate, the admiral refused to comply with the requisition of the officers present to land the troops, and sailed back to Brest, where he arrived on the last day of the year. The other divisions of his fleet also returned, but with the loss of two ships of the line and three frigates. Notwithstanding the failure of this enterprize, it afforded a serious proof that a naval superiority is no certain defence against an invasion, since accidental circumstances alone had prevented the present attempt from obtaining a full chance of success.

On October 16th died Victor Amadeus of Savoy, King of Sardinia, in the 71st year of his age, and the 23d of a reign, during which he had constantly enjoyed the love and respect of his subjects.

That splendid sovereign of the north, Catharine II. Empress of Russia, after having in this year usurped the dominion over Courland, turned her arms against Persia, and concluded a new treaty with Austria and Great Britain, in the midst of farther schemes of ambition, was suddenly carried off by an apoplexy on November 10th, in the 67th year of her age, and the 36th of her reign, leaving the succession to her son Paul Petrovitch. Her reign will always rank among the most brilliant periods of Russian history. Her character, public and private, will afford copious matter for moral and political discussion.

At the close of this year, General Washington retired from public life, terminating a career which has few parallels for genuine patriotism, true wisdom, and solid worth, by an admirable farewell address to the American congress.

A. D. 1797.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 37 & 38.
 ——— PARLIAMENT 1 & 2.

Depression of the Funds.—*King's Message on the Negotiations, and Addresses.*—*Suspension of Cash Payments by the Bank*—*Measures adopted in consequence.*—*Naval Victory of Admiral Jervis off Cape St. Vincent.*—*Landing of French Troops in Pembrokeshire and their Capture.*—*Reduction of the Island of St. Trinidad by the British.*—*and Failure at Porto Rico.*—*Alarming Mutiny in the Navy at Portsmouth, quelled by concessions.*—*Renewed by the Fleet at the North, and suppressed by Force.*—*Victory of Admiral Duncan over the Dutch Fleet.*—*Attempts against Cadiz, and Failure at Teneriffe.*—*Farther Parliamentary Occurrences.*—*Attempts of the Austrians to relieve Mantua.*—*Their Defeat at Rivoli, and Surrender of Mantua.*—*Buonaparte reduces the Pope to renounce the Coalition, and submit to hard Conditions of Peace.*—*Successes of the French against the Archduke Charles, in the north of Italy, and in Carinthia and Carniola.*—*Suspension of arms with the Emperor, followed by a Peace.*—*Previous actions on the Upper Rhine.*—*Venue and its territory conquered by the French.*—*Genoa rechristianized.*—*Articles of the Treaty of Campo Formio.*—*Internal Affairs of France.*—*Machinations of the Royalists, and opposition to the Directory.*—*The latter supported by Buonaparte and the Army.*—*Arrest of Pichegru and a number of the National Representatives.*—*Negotiations between England and France renewed at Lisle, and broken off.*—*Troubles in Ireland.*—*Winter meeting of Parliament.*—*Finance*—*Marriage of the Princess Royal of England to the hereditary Prince of Wirtemberg.*—*Death of the King of Prussia.*

IN proportion as Great Britain, from an accessary, had become a principal in the war, difficulties and dangers had accumulated around her. At this period she saw united against her two powerful members of that confederacy with which she had at first acted; and she had to fight for her own security, instead of pursuing schemes for humiliating a rival, and dictating in its internal concerns. Those principles of civil society

which had been thought so dangerous to all established governments, that their suppression was the object of a general league, had now taken such firm root in France that they might bid defiance to external force; and the energy first excited in their defence had terminated in a spirit of conquest really formidable to all its neighbours.

The return of Lord Malmesbury from his unsuccessful negotiation threw so deep a gloom upon the prospects of this country, that the funds experienced a depression beyond that of any period in the American war; and the present disposition of the public rendered prevalent an opinion that the ministry had only pretended a desire for peace that they might with less opposition obtain supplies for the prosecution of the war. In order to counteract this prepossession, his Majesty, on December 26th, sent a message to parliament, the purpose of which was to declare that the rupture of the negotiation did not proceed from the want of a sincere desire on his part for the restoration of peace, but from pretensions on that of the enemy inconsistent with the permanent interests of his kingdom, and the general security of Europe. At the same time his Majesty directed all the memorials and papers which had been exchanged in the course of the transaction to be laid before both Houses. This message was taken into consideration on the 26th by each House; and corresponding addresses having been moved, debates ensued, followed by motions for amendments strongly inculcating the conduct of the ministers. They were however rejected by large majorities.

Whilst the certainty of a continued war, with augmented burdens and hazards, was depressing the spirits of the nation, they received an additional shock from a suspension of payment by the Bank of England. That body, now become essential to the financial operations of government, had been called upon for such great advances of cash for the payment of foreign subsidies and other state exigences, that during the last year the directors had several times represented to the minister

the impossibility of supplying all his demands. The dread of an invasion having further contributed to the want of specie by a run upon the country bankers, the governor of the bank on February 9th informed Mr. Pitt, that complying with his request of an additional advance of 1,500,000*l.* as a loan to Ireland, would threaten ruin to the bank, and probably bring the directors to shut up their doors. In this state of affairs, the privy-council sent an order, on the 26th, prohibiting the directors of the bank of England from issuing any cash in payment till the sense of parliament could be taken on the subject, and measures be adopted for supporting the public credit. This step being made known to parliament on the following day by a message from the King, the subject was taken into consideration on the 28th. After warm debates, in which the opposition dwelt on the violent stretch of power by the privy council in thus exoperating a trading Company from the payment of its debts, and insisted on the necessity of an inquiry into the causes of this disaster, motions were carried in both Houses by the ministry for appointing by ballot a secret committee to examine into the affairs of the bank. In the meantime, to remedy the present obstructions in the circulating medium, a bill was passed authorizing the bank to issue notes below 5*l.* value.

The secret committee in each House brought up their report on March 2d and 3d, to the following effect:—that there was a surplus of property belonging to the bank of 3,826,890*l.* beyond the total of their debts, exclusive of a permanent debt from government of 11,666,800*l.*; that it had lately experienced a drain of cash, owing to the prevalence of alarm, which there was reason to suppose would go on progressively increasing, so that it was to be apprehended that the bank would be deprived of the means for supplying the cash necessary for the exigences of the public service—and that it was therefore proper to continue the measures already taken, for such time, and under such limitations, as should seem expedient to parliament.

As the debates and reasonings on the subject of the bank, and the relative value of cash and bank notes, from this period down to the present time, have been more numerous, abstruse, and contradictory, than upon almost any other domestic topic, nothing further will be here attempted than a recital of the different measures actually put in practice for remedying that failure in the circulating medium, which in the beginning bore so formidable an aspect.

Previously to the inquiry into the affairs of the bank by parliament, its solvency was so well established in the opinion of the commercial world, that a meeting was held at the Mansion-house on February 27th of all the bankers and the most opulent merchants of London, in which a resolution was unanimously entered into of taking bank of England notes in payment of any sum, and of using their utmost endeavours to make all their payments in the same. A committee of the whole House of Commons having on March 9th taken into consideration the report delivered to it respecting the bank, Mr. Pitt, moved for a bill to continue and confirm for a limited time the restriction of the issue of specie by the bank of England. During the passage of this bill through the House, various clauses were proposed by the minister, of which some of the most important were, that the army and navy should be paid in specie; that bank-notes should be received in payment by the collectors in every branch of the revenue; that the offer of a bank-note in payment of a demand should do away the effect of an arrest in the first instance; and that the bank should be permitted to issue a sum in cash not exceeding 100,000*l.*, for the accommodation of private bankers and traders in the metropolis. The operation of the bill was limited to the 24th of June. It passed the House with little difficulty, and was carried through the House of Lords without alteration. At this time one of the directors did not hesitate to assert in the House of Commons, that there was every reason to hope that the bank would soon be enabled to resume its payments in specie.

The early part of this year was signalized by a splendid exploit of the British navy. The acquisition by France of two allies, both capable of powerful exertions by sea, inspired her with hopes of overthrowing that maritime superiority of England which was so essential to her security as well as to her prosperity; and the ascendancy which the French had acquired in the councils of Holland and Spain was employed in urging them to use all their efforts in augmenting their navies. In Spain so much diligence had been exerted in this department, that a large fleet was prepared for the purpose of making a junction with the French squadron at Brest. Its force consisted of 27 sail of the line, six of them mounting 112 guns, and one, 136 guns. This formidable armament, however, was inadequately manned, a great proportion of the crews being landmen; and a mixture of expert artillerists could not supply the deficiency of sailors. The English squadron destined to intercept this gigantic fleet was composed of no more than 15 ships of the line and some frigates, but it was excellently manned, and was commanded by Admiral Jervis, an officer of first-rate abilities, seconded by some of the most distinguished captains in the British navy. On February 14th the English Admiral, cruising off Cape St. Vincent on the coast of Portugal, descried the Spanish fleet under a press of sail. Deciding on the instant what part to take, he bore down in a line before the enemy had time to form a regular order of battle, and separating one-third of the Spanish line from the rest, he reduced its force nearer to an equality. An attempt by the Spanish Admiral to rejoin his separated ships was prevented by the interposition of Commodore Nelson, who at one time had to encounter the Admiral and two other first rates. The engagement concluded with the capture of four Spanish ships, one of them of 112 guns, and with the return of their fleet to Cadiz, where they were blocked up by the English. Admiral Jervis was rewarded for his victory by the title of Earl St. Vincent; and Nelson, who now first began to be known to fame, received the honour of knighthood.

This action ranks among those which have most conspicuously illustrated the superior skill and courage of British seamen.

A singular and apparently unmeaning expedition to the English coast from France took place in the month of February. An armament consisting of about 1400 men embarked in four vessels, three of them large frigates, sailing from Brest, entered the Bristol Channel, and about the 20th anchored in the harbour of Ilfracombe. On being informed that the North Devon regiment of volunteers was marching towards them, they stood over to Pembrokeshire, and came to anchor in a bay near Fishguard. There the soldiers were landed, and on the 23d advanced into a wild country with which they were totally unacquainted. The alarm was immediately given, and people assembled from all parts to oppose them. More than 3000 men were soon collected, among whom were 700 well trained militia. Lord Cawdor placing himself at their head marched directly against the invaders, but instead of an expected encounter, he met a French officer bearing a letter from his commander, in which he signified a desire of entering into a negotiation for a surrender. An answer was returned requiring their immediate submission as prisoners of war, which was complied with; and on the next day they laid down their arms. They had no field-pieces, but were well provided with ammunition. A great part of the men were in rags, and apparently taken out of prison; and what was the purpose of this strange enterprize, further than that of shewing how accessible the coast of England is, remains a mystery. It certainly afforded a proof of the readiness of the people to defend their country.

The same month added another success to the British arms. The island of Trinidad, one of the largest in the Carribean group, and the nearest to the Spanish main, was the object of an expedition under the joint command of General Abercromby and Admiral Harvey. The Spaniards, who expected an attack, had collected for its defence a naval force of four ships of

the line and some frigates, which were anchored in a bay protected by strong batteries. On February 16th, the English squadron arrived with the intention of making an attack; but during the night the Spanish ships accidentally took fire, and were all consumed, excepting one which was captured. The Spaniards being thus rendered incapable of any effectual resistance, General Abercromby landed his troops, and with little opposition made himself master of the principal town, after which the whole island surrendered by capitulation.

In April an expedition was undertaken by the same commanders against the island of Porto Rico, which proved unsuccessful.

Scarcely had the public apprehensions respecting credit subsided, when a much more urgent cause of alarm was given by the mutiny which broke out in the British navy. Discontents had for some time subsisted among the seamen, the principal subjects of which were the smallness of their pay, and of the Greenwich pensions, which had not been augmented from the reign of Charles II.; to which were added the unequal distribution of prize-money, and the severity of the naval discipline, rendered more galling by the harsh and haughty behaviour of the officers to those under their command. Some anonymous petitions from ships' companies in the Channel fleet under Lord Bridport, craving relief from their grievances respecting pay, had been transmitted to Lord Howe in the months of February and March, which had occasioned him to make particular enquiries whether discontents were prevailing in that fleet, when he was assured of the negative. As soon, however, as it returned to Portsmouth, a secret correspondence was established from ship to ship, and an unanimous agreement was entered into, that an anchor should not be lifted till redress was obtained. On April 15th, the signal being hoisted to prepare for sea, three cheers were given from the *Queen Charlotte*, which were answered by the rest, and the mutiny was declared. All the efforts of the officers to bring the men

back to their duty were fruitless. The ships' companies appointed two delegates each, who held their consultations in the cabin of the Queen Charlotte; and on the 17th, an oath was administered to every seaman in the fleet to stand firm in the general cause. Some officers who were particularly obnoxious were sent ashore; but in other respects the strictest discipline was observed, and the most respectful attention to their officers was enjoined under rigorous penalties. All their proceedings denoted a concerted plan, and fixed determination. Two petitions were drawn up and signed by the delegates, one to the admiralty, the other to the House of Commons, both expressed in the most proper language, and stating their complaints, the grounds of which appeared not unreasonable. The matter seemed so serious to government, that the board of admiralty was transferred to Portsmouth, and a kind of negotiation was entered upon with the mutineers. It was at length notified to them, that their demands were complied with, and that it was expected that all would return to their duty. The delegates, however, declared it to be the general resolution that nothing could be agreed to which was not sanctioned by parliament, and guaranteed by the King's proclamation; and one of the admirals having used menaces on the occasion, the mutiny bore a more hostile aspect than before. At length Lord Bridport went aboard, hoisted his flag, and acquainted them that he brought with him a redress of all their grievances, and the King's pardon; the consequence of which was that obedience was immediately restored.

From April 23d to May 7th, the fleet remained in due subordination, when a fresh mutiny broke out, on a suspicion among the sailors that the promises made to them would be violated. Lord Howe, whose influence in the navy was greater than that of any other person, then went down, and his addresses and assurances having fully satisfied their minds, they were again reduced to order. In all these measures the seamen lying at Plymouth concurred. On May 8th, the ministry laid before the House of Commons esti-

mates for the augmentation of pay to the seamen and marines of the navy, the sum of which was stated at 436,000*l*. Mr. Pitt, in moving for this grant, deprecated any discussion of the House on the case, and hoped that it would pass its judgment by a silent vote. The opposition, however, thought that the ministers had been culpably negligent in not having applied to the House sooner on the business, and a motion of censure to that purpose was made; it was however negatived, and a bill for the increase of pay in the navy, with a clause for continuing the pay to wounded seamen till cured, passed into a law.

It was hoped that these concessions would have proved entirely satisfactory to a body of men in general so well affected to their country; but they had unfortunately been enforced, not granted, and the same method lay open for obtaining further demands. On May 22d, a mutiny broke out in the men of war lying at the Nore, the crews of which, taking possession of their ships, elected delegates, and drew up a statement of requisitions to be laid before the admiralty. They were joined, on June 4th, by four men of war from Admiral Duncan's fleet off the coast of Holland. The head of this revolt was one Parker, a man of some education and good parts, and remarkable for a resolute disposition. The admiralty having returned a negative to their demands, as incompatible with the orders and regulations of the navy, Parker replied with a declaration that the seamen had determined to keep possession of the fleet till their grievances were redressed. The lords of the admiralty repairing to Sheerness had an interview with the delegates, whose behaviour was so audacious, that they returned without any prospect of agreement. This mutiny was the more alarming, as the position of the ships gave them the command of the navigation of the Thames, and as it was organized in a perfectly democratical form, and gave tokens of a deeper disaffection. It was therefore determined by government, after an ineffectual attempt to bring back the men to their duty by an offer of

pardon, to employ force for their reduction ; in which resolution they were confirmed by the disapprobation which the Portsmouth and Plymouth fleets manifested of these proceedings. The buoys at the mouth of the river were therefore taken up, batteries were erected on the banks for firing red-hot shot, and a proclamation was issued declaring the ships in a state of rebellion, and forbidding all intercourse with them from the shore. The mutineers, on their parts, blocked up the river, seized some store-ships, and appeared to meditate some desperate attempts. At length, becoming sensible that their fellow-seamen and the whole nation were against them, they began to waver and differ among themselves ; one ship after another stole away ; the well-affected on board the remainder were encouraged to oppose the more violent ; and after some bloodshed among one another, all the ships submitted. Parker and his fellow delegates were given up. The former, after a solemn trial, was capitally condemned, and executed, acknowledging the justice of his sentence. Some of the other delegates also suffered, but at length a general pardon was issued to the defaulters.

During the course of this mutiny a message was delivered by the King to parliament, recommending that measures should be taken for the public security, and especially that more effectual provision should be made for the prevention and punishment of attempts to excite mutiny and sedition in the navy, or to seduce individuals in the sea or land service from their allegiance. A bill was accordingly brought in for this purpose, the duration of which was limited to one month beyond the commencement of the next session, and it passed unanimously. This bill certainly originated in a suspicion that the last mutiny was fomented by emissaries from the enemy, or by persons attached to the interests of France ; but upon the strictest examination nothing was discovered to confirm such a surmise.

The regular course of narrative may be here anticipated to relate an important service by which the

British seamen compensated the temporary mischief their improper conduct had done to their country. Admiral Duncan who, during the whole summer, had been blocking up the Dutch fleet in the Texel which was destined to join that of the French at Brest, being obliged by a storm to bear away for Yarmouth Roads, the Dutch squadron, of 11 ships of the line, and four of 56 guns, under the command of Admiral Winter, took that opportunity of putting to sea. Admiral Duncan, with 16 ships of the line, on receiving this intelligence, immediately returned to the Dutch coast, and on the morning of October 11th, came in sight of the enemy off the land between Camperdown and Egmont, drawn up in a line to receive him. A severe engagement ensued, which terminated in a complete victory to the British, who captured eight Dutch ships of the line, including those of the admiral and vice-admiral, two of 56 guns, and two frigates. This brilliant success was received with the greatest rejoicings at home, and the conquering commander was deservedly advanced to the peerage. By this action, and that of Lord St. Vincent, the grand scheme formed by the French of obtaining a naval superiority in the British seas was entirely frustrated.

While the British squadron was lying off Cadiz, two spirited attempts were made, under the conduct of Commodore Nelson, to bombard that city, the effect of which was confined to some mischief done to the shipping in the harbour. Intelligence having been received that the town of Santa Cruz in the Island of Teneriffe was in a situation that would justify an attempt to gain possession of it, the same commander, now raised to the rank of admiral, was sent with a squadron of men of war and some soldiers, who arrived off the place on July 24th. An attack was made at night by a thousand men embarked in the boats of the squadron, a division of whom landed on the mole, and dispersed the men stationed for its defence; but such a hot fire was opened upon them, that nearly the whole were killed or wounded. Another

division landing to the south of the citadel, penetrated to the great square of the town, and marched towards the citadel, which was found too strong to be attempted. The commander, Captain Troubridge, being informed that a large force was preparing to attack them, sent a message to the Spanish governor, that if he were allowed to re-embark without molestation, the squadron before the town would not injure it. The governor at first required that they should surrender prisoners of war, but this condition being rejected, with a menace of firing the town, the English were allowed to embark at the Mole. In this unfortunate expedition, apparently undertaken without adequate knowledge, a considerable loss was sustained, and the brave admiral lost his right arm. The wounded who remained in the town were treated with great humanity.

The remaining occurrences in parliament previously to the summer recess chiefly consisted in motions and debates relative to the invasion of Ireland, and the discontents prevailing in that country. The ministers underwent some severe charges of neglect and insensibility to the public danger on these occasions, but the motions against them were defeated by the usual majorities. A motion in the House of Commons by Mr. Grey for a specific reform in the representation of the people was negatived by 258 votes against 93. Parliament rose on the 20th of July.

The military operations on the continent in this year commenced with the advance of Alvinzi from his cantonments on the Brenta, at the head of a new Austrian army of 50,000 men, to attempt the relief of Mantua which still held out against the French. On January 8th, he attacked a French post on the Adige, which, after resisting the whole day, retired at night. Crossing that river, Alvinzi then made an attack upon General Joubert, who was much inferior in number, and forced him to retreat to Rivoli. Buonaparte, apprized of the event, marched, with all the reinforcements he could collect, to that place, where he arrived in the night unknown to the Austrian general, who

renewed the attack on the following day, January 14th. After an engagement attended with many changes of fortune, and in which the French were at one time nearly surrounded, the latter gained the victory; and the retreating Austrians were afterwards pursued with so much vigour, that almost the whole of the remaining army was captured or destroyed in detail. The garrison of Mantua now despairing of succour, capitulated on February 2d, on honourable terms, which were merited by their brave resistance; and the imperial arms were totally expelled from Italy.

The Pope, who had imprudently resumed hostilities against the French, was now left without foreign support; and neither the sanctity of his character, nor such an army as he was able to raise from his territories, were likely to oppose any considerable obstacle to such invaders. After an action in which his few troops were routed without difficulty, his territories were presently over-run by French armies, his principal places surrendered, and Buonaparte having advanced within 40 leagues of Rome, which he did not wish to enter in a hostile manner, sent a letter in which he advised his holiness to trust to the generosity of the French, and conclude a pacification. This was effected on the terms that the Pope should renounce the coalition, disband his troops, and shut his ports against the enemies of France; that he should cede Avignon in full sovereignty, and every other place in France formerly subject to the Roman see; also the cities and territories of Bologna, Ferrara, and the Romagna; and should pay to the republic the sum of 30 millions of livres, either in specie, or in works of art and manuscripts.

In the meantime another powerful Austrian army had been collected, which was placed under the command of the Archduke Charles. The French in three divisions marched against it, and obliged the Austrians to retire to the Tagliamento, on the bank of which they entrenched themselves with the resolution of disputing the passage. The French divisions uniting and

led by Buonaparte in person, on March 16th, forced their way across the river, the Austrians still retreating before them. Arriving at the Lisonzo, they again encountered an opposition; but having effected a passage, they took Gradisca with its garrison, and in the sequel made themselves masters of Goritia, and finally of Trieste, the Emperor's only port on the Adriatic. Massena and another French general were at this time advancing to the borders of Carinthia; and the former being attacked by the Austrians at Tarvis, a very obstinate battle was fought, terminating in a complete victory to the French. Joubert, who had penetrated into Tyrol, advanced through a career of victories, and gained possession of Botzen and Brixen; while Bernadotte reduced the province of Carniola with its capital Laybach; and Massena, after taking Clagenfurt, forced a line of defiles defended by a strong corps of Austrians, who were succoured by the Archduke at the head of his grenadiers.

The greatest consternation now prevailed in Vienna, which was the avowed object of the French arms. Many persons of rank withdrew from that capital, and the Emperor himself signified his intention of doing the same, rather than wait the event of a siege. In this situation, Buonaparte wrote a letter to the Archduke, making overtures for peace, which was ostentatiously published throughout Europe, as a testimony of his moderation; and to make it appear that the war was continued only through the machinations of the British ministry. He continued his advance, when a proposal being brought from the Emperor for a suspension of arms, it was concluded on April 7th.

During the current of success by which the French were borne in this quarter, they were proceeding in a similar career on the Rhine. The recovery of Fort Kehl, which had been taken by the Archduke about the beginning of the year, was the first object of Moreau, who finding the Austrian line of defence on that river much weakened by the reinforcement sent to the Italian army, resolved to attempt a passage. It

was effected after a warm action on April 19th, and the reduction of Kehl was the immediate consequence. Hoche, who commanded on the Lower Rhine, crossed that river at Neuwied on the 18th, and being opposed by General Kray, defeated him in a bloody battle, and forced the imperialists to a hasty retreat. Other French divisions pushed on towards different parts, and they were within a few hours march of Frankfort, when the intelligence of the preliminaries of peace being signed put a stop to their progress. That event took place on April 18th.

The pacification between France and Austria now gave leisure to Buonaparte for turning his attention to the Venetians. The republic of Venice had undergone violations of its territories from both the belligerents, but it was particularly exasperated against France, and viewed with dread the progress of its arms and principles in Italy. When the French armies had passed into the Austrian provinces, and rumours were propagated of their being enclosed in defiles, where they would probably be obliged to lay down their arms, the hatred of the Venetians broke out into acts of violence and barbarity towards the French who remained among them, many being assassinated, and at Verona, in particular, a massacre being perpetrated in which even the sick in the hospitals were not spared. These outrages produced a manifesto from Buonaparte, dated the 3d of May, in which the French resident at Venice was ordered to quit that city, and hostilities were directed against the Venetian government. In consequence, the French troops in a few days over-ran and subdued all the territory of the republic on the Terra firma, and an exemplary vengeance was taken of the Veronese. The Venetians, conscious of their utter inability to resist, made a formal submission, and agreed to deliver up the persons guilty of the atrocities complained of. On May 16th a small body of French took unresisted possession of this Queen of the Adriatic, boasting of an independence of 14 centuries, during which she had often foiled the attacks of the most potent princes, and had

held in her hands the balance of Italy. A provisional government was established by the victor on the democratical plan; and the arsenal, with its contents, and the shipping of the state, were appropriated to the use of the French republic.

The state of Genoa next underwent the revolutionary process. In that republic the popular party had become that of the majority, but a contest between it and the aristocracy had ended in the triumph of the latter. The vanquished, however, applied to Buonaparte for his protection, who gave the nobles to understand that it was in vain for them to resist the prevalent spirit. They prudently complied with the admonition, and admitted a system of government modelled upon that of France.

The negotiations for a definitive peace between Austria and France were carrying on during the summer and autumn; and the principle of compensations being admitted as that by which the stronger powers were to make up their quarrels at the expence of the weaker, the court of Vienna was connived at in making an irruption into the Venetian province of Istria, and reducing it under its own dominion. The treaty was signed on October 17th at Campo Formio by Buonaparte and the imperial commissioners. By its articles the Emperor ceded to the French republic, in full sovereignty, the whole of the Austrian Netherlands, and consented to its remaining in possession of the isles of Corfu, Zante, Cefalonia, and all others belonging to the Venetians in the Adriatic, together with their settlements in Albania, to the south east of the gulph of Lodrino. He recognized the new republic called the Cisalpine, formed out of states in the territories of the Pope and of Venice, to which were annexed Austrian Lombardy, Mantua, Modena, Massa, and Carrara. On the other hand, there were ceded to the Emperor, Istria, Dalmatia, with all the Venetian islands in the Adriatic to the north-west of the gulph of Lodrino, and the city of Venice, with a large portion of the dominions of that extinguished republic. The Duke of Modena was to

have an indemnification in the Brisgaw. By a secret convention, the Emperor consented that the Rhine should be the boundary between France and Germany, and engaged to use his mediation for procuring the like consent from the German states; and on the other hand, the French were to exert their influence in procuring some cessions to the Emperor on the side of Bavaria. For every acquisition made in the empire by one party, the other was to receive an equivalent.

During this period of success to the arms of France, its domestic tranquillity was shaken by frequent storms. The royalist party were indefatigable in their machinations against the republican government; and great numbers in every part of France being imbued with their principles, they continually became more daring and confident. A conspiracy formed by the emissaries of Louis XVIII. was detected in January, and its principal agents were apprehended; and although the truth of some pretended discoveries in this business was questionable, yet an address of Louis to the French nation, published soon after, avowed the existence in France of persons who acted in concert with him. At the annual change, in March, of one third of the members of the legislature, some of the ancient noblesse were returned, with others whose principles were thought inclining to monarchy; among these was General Pichegru, who had long been suspected of a design to bring back the Bourbon family. In the directory, Latourneur went out of office by lot, and was replaced by Barthelemi, a negotiator and man of letters in general esteem. The session of the new legislature commenced in May, and a strong opposition soon declared itself against the measures of the directory, who were loudly censured for profusion and mismanagement. More favour now began to be shewn to the relations of emigrants, and the non-juring priests, and some of the severest decrees against them were mitigated. The royalists at the same time assumed a greater liberty of speech, and much rancorous abuse passed between the two parties.

But if the republican cause lost ground in the senate, it was popular without, and particularly enjoyed the powerful support of Buonaparte, now decidedly the first military character of the nation. On the anniversary of the 14th of July he informed the army that counter-revolutionary designs were in agitation, and exhorted them to remain true to the cause for which they had shed so much of their blood. His address was so efficacious, that the different divisions of the army warmly expressed their approbation of the conduct of the directory, and their attachment to the existing constitution. This declaration of the sentiments of the military class induced the government to call a body of troops to the neighbourhood of Paris, for the purpose of overawing the royalists who were flocking in from different parts to the capital. In this measure, however, three only of the directory concurred, Barras, Reubel, and Larevelliere; the other two, Carnot and Barthelemi, inclined to more moderate councils. Violent dissensions and party movements were the result, which at length were brought to a crisis. On September 4th General Angereau received an order signed by the three directors first mentioned, to arrest a number of the national representatives; in consequence of which he entered the place of assembly with his soldiers, and apprehended Generals Pichegru and Willot, with 60 other members, on a charge of high treason. The other members of the directory were also among the proscribed, but Carnot made his escape, while Barthelemi remained to share in the fate of his party. A committee of public safety was then nominated, the resolutions of which were adopted by the council of 500. By these, the transactions of the primary and electoral assemblies of 50 departments were declared illegal, the persons elected by them into the legislature and into official posts were compelled to resign, and power was given to the directory to nominate to the offices thus vacated. The laws in favour of royalists and emigrants were repealed; all public journals were placed under the inspection of

the police ; and fifty-five persons, members of the directory and the two councils, were sentenced to deportation. It was a signal proof of the change in the national temper, that in all these violent proceedings not a single drop of blood was shed. The two vacancies in the directory were filled by Merlin, and Francois de Neufchateau.

The necessity to which Austria had been reduced of making a separate peace with France, having left Great Britain absolutely alone in her contest with a power which had been acquiring allies in proportion as she had lost them, it appeared a point of obvious policy, for her also to withdraw from a war which was now without any attainable object, and presented nothing but burden and hazard. The ministry therefore, on June 1st, intimated to the French directory a willingness to enter into a new negotiation for peace. The proposal was assented to, and Lisle being the place fixed upon for holding the conferences, Lord Malmesbury repaired thither in the beginning of July. The discussions which followed presented numerous difficulties, chiefly arising from the pretended obligations of the French to procure for their allies a restitution of all that they had lost, which would have left to the English nothing but the part of cession, without any compensation. In the midst of the negotiation, those political changes took place in France which have been above mentioned, one of the consequences of which was the appointment of new plenipotentiaries at Lisle. On their arrival the conference was soon brought to an end; for Lord Malmesbury being required to give an immediate answer to the question, whether he was invested with powers for restoring to the French republic and its allies all the conquests made from them during the war, upon his declaration that he was authorized to treat upon no other principle than that of reciprocal compensations, he was ordered to depart within four and twenty hours. He accordingly, after an ineffectual attempt to induce them to recall this hasty order, left Lisle on September 18th.

The French rulers were perhaps led to take this arrogant tone not only by the extraordinary career of success which their arms had met with on the continent of Europe, but by a presage of the difficulties in which the British government were about to be involved on account of the tumultuous state of Ireland. The dissensions in that kingdom, inflamed by a variety of aggravations, had proceeded so far, that the malcontents, who assumed the title of *United Irishmen*, regularly organized themselves throughout the country, and sent deputies to treat with the French for assistance in throwing off the yoke of England. On the other side, the party attached to government put in practice strong measures. The military were dispersed into all parts; searches were made for arms with circumstances of great severity; and many persons were apprehended on suspicion. The moderate party in the Irish parliament, who proposed conciliation by a reform in the representation, finding themselves in a small minority, made a secession. A large proportion of the people were now obviously preparing for insurrection, and nothing could be more gloomy than the prospects with which the year closed in Ireland.

The British parliament re-assembled on November 2d, and was opened by a speech from the throne, of which the principal topics were the failure of the negotiations for peace, the flourishing state of the revenue, and the naval successes, with the necessity of continuing the most vigorous exertions till a more just and pacific spirit should prevail on the part of the enemy. The usual addresses were carried with little opposition; and the succeeding debates relative to the negotiations at Lisle afforded nothing memorable. The estimates of the expences for the ensuing year were then brought forward, from which it appeared that the supplies to be provided for amounted to twenty-five and a half millions. Among the ways and means proposed was the trebling of the assessed taxes, to stand in place of a part of the requisite loan. This subject was productive of long debates, which were not terminated before the recess.

At the beginning of this year Mr. Adams was elected president of the United States of America, and Mr. Jefferson vice-president.

On May 18th, Frederic William, Hereditary Prince of Wurtemberg Stutgardt was married to Charlotta Augusta Matilda, Princess-royal of Great Britain.

Frederic William II., King of Prussia, died on November 10th, in the 51th year of his age, after a reign of 11 years. He was succeeded by his son, Frederic William III.

A. D. 1798.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 38 & 39.

————— PARLIAMENT 2 & 3.

Rebellion in Ireland.—*Earl Cornwallis appointed Viceroy.*—*Landing of French at Killala, and their Capture.*—*Naval Success of Sir J. Borlase Warren.*—*Final Extinction of the Rebellion.*—*Parliamentary Affairs.*—*Bill permitting purchase of the Land-tax, and other Financial Measures.*—*Plans for National Defence.*—*Tender of foreign Service by the Militia.*—*Bill passed for regulating Slave Ships.*—*Preparations of the French for invading Great Britain, and Measures taken for Resistance.*—*Expedition against Ostend, and its Result.*—*Motions of the French Directory to bring Switzerland under its Authority.*—*Bern taken, and the Aristocratical Cantons reduced.*—*New Constitution.*—*Resistance and Destruction of the Underwalders.*—*Revolution at Rome.*—*The Papal Government abrogated.*—*The City in Possession of the French.*—*A French Garrison admitted into the Citadel of Turin.*—*Grand Expedition to Egypt under Buonaparte.*—*Malta reduced.*—*Cairo taken.*—*French Fleet entirely destroyed in the Bay of Aboukir by Admiral Nelson.*—*Further Proceedings of the French in Egypt.*—*Attempt of the Court of Naples to expel the French from Rome; its final Defeat.*—*Insurrection in the Low Countries.*—*The Ottoman Porte declares War against France.*—*Treaty between Russia and Great Britain.*—*Preparations of the Americans to assert their Rights against the French.*—*St. Domingo relinquished to the People of Colour.*—*Minorca surrendered to the British.*—*Winter Session of Parliament opened.*—*Income-tax proposed.*

THE affairs of Ireland took the lead this year, in point of importance, among the concerns of the British empire. The numerous malcontents of that country, though much disconcerted by the failure of their expectations of aid from France, were so hard pressed by the vigorous and severe measures of government, which had obtained intelligence of their plans, that they resolved no longer to delay making trial of the fortune of arms. In

the month of February they had formed a military committee which drew up instructions for their officers and commanders, but the great body of the lower class were wholly destitute of proper arms and accoutrements, for which they had relied on importations by the French. Such, however, was their ardour, that they crowded to the summons of their chiefs, and during that and the following month the disaffected had spread over many of the southern districts, whilst an extensive correspondence was carried on with those in the north. A general insurrection had been determined upon, in which the castle of Dublin, the camp near it, and the artillery, were to have been surprized in one night, and other places were to have been seized at the same time. The disclosure of the plot by one of the conspirators occasioned the seizure of fourteen of the delegates at a house in Dublin; and the information of a militia officer, who had entered among them as a spy, produced other discoveries which entirely defeated this design. Nothing therefore was left them but open force, and on May 24th they commenced their operations by an attack on the towns of Naas, Carlow, and other places, from which they were repulsed with loss. On the 25th they proceeded, about 15,000 strong, against Wexford, and entirely defeated part of the garrison which sallied out to meet them; and on the 30th the town surrendered, after part of the protestant inhabitants had escaped; those who remained were put under confinement. They also made themselves masters of Enniscorthy with the help of the catholic inhabitants; but in a furious attack on New Ross, which was defended by a strong division of the army, they were driven back with great slaughter. Enraged at this defeat, they massacred in cold blood more than a hundred of their protestant prisoners at Wexford; for the insurrection had now taken the precise character of a popish rebellion as in former times, and the foresight of this result prevented any co-operation from the protestant political malcontents in the north. Other actions with various fortune ensued, till General Lake, collecting a powerful force, on

June 21st attacked the main body of the rebels posted on Vinegar Hill near Euniscorthy. After a vigorous resistance, they were broken and fled; and their loss in the battle and pursuit was so considerable, that the whole party was completely disheartened. Wexford and the other places held by them were given up; and in the south of Ireland none remained in arms except a few bodies of pillagers. In the north, the counties of Down and Antrim had joined in the insurrection, and a force was mustered which ventured to oppose the troops sent against them; but a defeat which they sustained on June 12th near Ballinahinch reduced them to submission.

Soon after these events, Lord Camden was recalled, and Earl Cornwallis, whose political and military character stood in the highest estimation, was appointed his successor. He carried with him a general pardon for all who should submit, with a very few exceptions. Some of those who had been apprehended for the conspiracy above mentioned were executed, the punishment of others was commuted, and justice was duly tempered with mercy. The troubles in Ireland would probably soon have subsided, had not the French at length sent a tardy and inefficient aid. A body of about 900 regular troops commanded by General Humbert, was landed at Killala on August 22d, from three French frigates, and immediately marched to Castlebar, joined by a small number of the catholics of the country. They there encountered a superior force under General Lake which they compelled to retreat, leaving behind it six pieces of cannon. From Castlebar they proceeded eastward into the heart of the country, with what plan it is difficult to conceive, since it was impossible that so inconsiderable a body could resist the troops that would be collected against them; but Humbert was probably led to expect the junction of all the malcontents on his route. The French and their associates crossed the Shannon, General Lake with his column following to watch their movements. Lord Cornwallis in the meantime had advanced with more troops to

Carrick. At length, on September 8th, Lake coming up with their rear at a place called Ballinamuck, a short action was brought on, terminating in the surrender of all the French, and the dispersion or capture of the rebels. Another attempt of the French to revive a lost cause was equally unsuccessful. A squadron consisting of one ship of the line and eight frigates with troops and ammunition on board, destined for Ireland, was fallen in with, off the north-western coast of that island, by the squadron of Sir John Borlase Warren, on October 12th, who captured the ship of the line and three frigates; and eventually, the whole, with the exception of two frigates, came into the possession of the English. This abortive effort was the close of the Irish rebellion, an enterprize more alarming than dangerous, and not less weakly conducted, than rashly begun.

Of the parliamentary business during the remainder of the session, a principal part was financial. The bill for increasing the assessed taxes, after a considerable opposition in both Houses, received the royal assent on January 12th. In April Mr. Pitt brought forward a plan for extinguishing a quantity of the national debt, by permitting individuals to purchase their land-tax. The discussion of this scheme produced much debate, in which the most opposite opinions were maintained relative to the probable effect of such a change. The strongest objection was made on the constitutional ground, that it took away the check upon ministers possessed by parliament in the present annual vote for the land-tax, as payment for the army; it however passed into a law.

The minister found it necessary on April 25th, to introduce a new estimate for the public supplies on account of additional expenditures, which raised the sum required to nearly twenty-eight and an half millions. Among the ways and means were some new taxes, and a loan of fifteen millions for Great Britain and two millions for Ireland.

The accumulated dangers to the nation having rendered it necessary to attend more particularly to the

means of defence, Mr. Dundas brought in a bill for allowing men in the supplemental militia to enlist into the regular army, which passed without opposition. It was followed by another, to enable his majesty to provide for the security and defence of the kingdom, and to indemnify persons who might suffer in their property by such measures as should be thought necessary, of which the object was to confer the power of knowing, in case of emergency, who were ready to appear in arms and co-operate with the existing military force, and of employing them in the most effectual manner. The revival of the alien bill, and a renewal of the suspension of the habeas corpus act, were farther measures adopted for the purpose of prevention.

The state of Ireland was a topic introduced into some of the parliamentary speeches; but it was the general feeling, that the public agitation of such a subject at so critical a period was highly improper. In the month of June, while the rebellion was raging, a message from the King was brought to parliament, desiring "that he might be enabled to take all such measures as might be necessary to defeat any enterprizes of his enemies, as the exigences of affairs might require." The particular object of this message was explained by another, mentioning that the officers and privates of different regiments of militia had made a voluntary tender of their services to assist in the suppression of the rebellion now subsisting in Ireland; and a motion was accordingly made for a bill to enable his Majesty to accept of such tenders. It was considerably opposed, as being likely in many cases to operate compulsorily upon a great part of such militia corps; the bill however passed into a law.

Mr. Wilberforce in this session brought on his annual motion for the abolition of the slave trade, which was seconded by Mr. Pitt. It renewed the usual debates upon this topic, and was rejected by only a small majority, the votes being 87 to 83. A better fortune attended the introduction of a bill to alleviate the miseries attending this traffic, entitled "For regulating the

shipping and carrying of slaves in British vessels from Africa," which passed by a great majority.

Parliament was prorogued on June 29th.

The French having by the treaty of Campo Formio disengaged themselves from their continental enemies, it became more than ever their avowed object to subdue their remaining and most formidable foe, England. The invasion of Great Britain was the favourite theme of their public orators, and its conquest was anticipated with all the boastful confidence of the nation. A number of troops was collected on the opposite coast, and named *the army of England*; transports of all kinds were fitted out in the harbours of the Channel; and a loan was opened upon the credit of the English spoils. Although many in this country imagined all this to be gasconade, intended for the purpose of alarm and diversion, yet the most active measures were pursued for repelling the threatened attack. Besides the large addition made to the militia, every county was directed to raise bodies of irregular cavalry from the yeomanry; and almost every town and considerable village in the kingdom had its corps of volunteers trained and regularly armed. The greatest alacrity was every where shewn to confront the menaced assault, and this island was never before in so formidable a state of internal defence. Party differences were entirely suspended as far as concerned this essential point; and Britain, with united hearts and hands, "was confident against a world in arms."

Intelligence having been received that a number of transport boats fitting out at Flushing were intended to be sent round by the canals to Ostend and Dunkirk for the purpose of invasion, an expedition was sent out in May, in order to destroy the sluices and bason of the Bruges canal at Ostend. A flotilla of vessels under the direction of Captain Home Popham, having on board a body of troops commanded by Major-General Coote, sailed on the 19th, and early on the next morning a landing was effected to the eastward of Ostend. The troops were immediately employed in the business for which they were sent, and in a few hours the sluices were blown

up, and several vessels in the canal were destroyed, with a trifling loss to the assailants. On returning to the beach to re-embark, it was found that the wind and surf rendered this operation impracticable; and the country being at this time alarmed, several columns were soon descried approaching to attack them. After a spirited resistance, the great superiority of the enemy taking away all hope of escape, the troops surrendered prisoners of war, and were conveyed to Bruges. The number landed was about 1000, of whom more than a hundred were killed or wounded in the engagement.

The French directory, whose successes had inspired them with a spirit of unlimited domination, now resolved to extend their authority to Switzerland. They began by peremptorily requiring the cantons to expel the British envoy, Mr. Wickham, whom they accused of having by English money aided the machinations of the French emigrants in Switzerland with their associates in France; but this cause of quarrel was obviated by that minister's recall. They next ordered the French troops on the frontier to take possession of that part of the territory of Basle which was subject to the jurisdiction of the cantons, and assured to them by treaty, which act produced remonstrances, but nothing farther. Meantime their emissaries had been assiduous in disseminating democratical principles through those cantons, the constitution of which was aristocratical, and in which the haughtiness of the nobility and leading families had long been a subject of complaint. The Pays de Vaud, subject to Bern, was particularly rendered discontent by the manner in which it had been governed; and a strong division of French troops under General Menard having marched into that district, the Vaudois, joined by malcontents from the other cantons, on January 7th, held an assembly of representatives elected according to the French plan, which sent a deputation to Paris testifying their devotion to the republic, and claiming its assistance in defence of their liberty. The French had now obtained complete possession of that quarter, with its magazines and military

stores, and began to levy contributions. In this alarming state of affairs, the Swiss diet, assembled at Arau, was divided in opinion concerning the measures proper to be adopted; five of them, with Bern at their head, deciding for a vigorous opposition to the French, whilst the other eight, including the democratical cantons, refused to concur in the resolution. Matters were still in suspense, when a French soldier being killed in an affray, Menard regarded the act as a declaration of hostilities, and put his forces in motion. The government of Bern, in order to ingratiate themselves with their own subjects, relaxed their aristocratical plan by a decree empowering the principal towns and districts in their canton to elect fifty members to the sovereign council; in which alteration they were imitated by five other cantons. At the same time a solemn resolution was entered into of defending their country to the last extremity. An army was raised under the command of the Baron d'Erlach, but before proceeding to hostilities, a negotiation was entered upon with the French General Brune, successor to Menard. The conditions prescribed by the directory being a total change in the Swiss constitution, and the adoption of one which they dictated, the terms were rejected. Negotiations, however, were still pending, when, on the night of March 1st, Brune attacked the Swiss army by surprise, which was compelled to retreat, and Friburg and Soleure fell into the hands of the victors. Several well disputed actions ensued, but the French made their way to the walls of Bern, in which city the people had insisted upon a change of government, which had been complied with. This event was notified to General Brune, who farther required the admission of a French garrison; but all parties united in the indignant rejection of this proposal. The French immediately made their attack, March 5th, and in the bloody action which ensued, a number of youths of the best families fell, after exerting the most heroic courage. The Swiss were at length entirely defeated, and the victors entered Bern that evening. The fall of this canton was fol-

lowed by that of the other aristocratical cantons, which submitted to the terms imposed by France. The five smaller cantons, however, though democratical, formed a resolution of resisting a foreign yoke; and on the 30th of April their united force marched to Lucerne, of which they took possession. This they evacuated on the advance of the French, who surprized Zug, where a large party of the Swiss laid down their arms. The remainder entered into a treaty with the French general, by which it was stipulated that none of his troops should come within the boundaries of the confederate cantons. The directory, however, took a pretext for breaking this treaty, from the refusal of these cantons to take the oath of fidelity to the new constitution imposed by the diet of Arau; and by intimidation produced a compliance from all but the canton of Unterwalden. Its inhabitants, determined not to survive the loss of their liberties, encountered on September 8th, a vastly superior body of French invaders, and after all the exertions of valour reduced to despair, were almost entirely cut off. Two hundred men of Schweitz, who came too late for their succour, rushed into the midst of the French ranks, and were killed to a man. All Switzerland was now modelled into one republic on the plan of that of France, but its legislature was not permitted to act independently of the French government. The rapacious and tyrannical spirit of the latter was displayed by an order to their commissary-general in Switzerland, for seizing all the treasures and stores belonging to the public throughout the country.

During the course of these events, the seeds of a revolution were ripening at Rome. Although the Pope had obtained a respite from French hostility by the treaty of Tolentino, he had been reduced to such a state of humiliation, and had been obliged to practise so many unpopular expedients to raise the sums imposed upon him, that he retained little of the respect or attachment of his subjects. At the same time the principles of the French revolution were making pro-

gress among a people who had never lost the memory of the liberty and glory of their republican ancestors. About the close of December an insurrection took place among the malcontents, in which some of the insurgents repaired to the palace of the French ambassador, and requested the protection of France in their efforts to establish a free government. The ambassador desiring them to depart, an affray arose between them and the pursuing military, in the court of the palace, which he and General Duphot attempted to pacify. The latter, having seized a soldier's musket to prevent him from firing, was shot dead, and the ambassador escaped with difficulty. He afterwards left Rome and retired to Florence; and this outrage, for which every possible satisfaction was offered, afforded a pretext for sending Marshal Berthier to Rome with a large body of troops. On February 11th the French took possession of the castle of St. Angelo; and on the 16th the people of Rome, assembling in the Campo Vaccino, solemnly proclaimed the resumption of their ancient sovereignty. They then framed an act of legislative and executive government, which they presented to the French general, by whom it was conditionally accepted, with some additional regulations for preserving the public peace. The Pope, on the entrance of the French, was confined to the Vatican under strong guard, and seals were placed on all the pontifical apartments, and on the palaces of the absent cardinals. Large contributions were demanded, for the payment of which four cardinals were kept as hostages, and a variety of revolutionary injunctions were issued. The body of cardinals present formally abdicated their share in the temporal government of the state. It being signified to the Pope that his reign was at an end, but that his spiritual dignity remained inviolate, he expressed himself well satisfied; and on February 23d he withdrew to Sienna. Rome was now for several months a scene of merciless pillage and extortion on the part of the French, and of tumults and insurrections attended with bloodshed on that of the oppressed people, till commis-

sioners delegated by the directory exerted themselves to suppress the outrages of their countrymen.

The King of Sardinia, who, though nominally an independent sovereign, was in fact entirely at the mercy of the French, having been obliged by his necessities to levy large contributions on his subjects, an insurrection of the Piedmontese bordering on Genoa took place, which was favoured by the new Ligurian republic. In the sequel, the directory interfered, and required the admission of a French garrison into the citadel of Turin, which was complied with in the beginning of July; and thus Piedmont was put in the actual possession of France.

The *great nation*, as it emphatically called itself, now entertained those projects of boundless ambition which for so many years have held the greatest part of the civilized world in a state of perpetual agitation; and in this year it carried them to another quarter of the globe. An expedition was long in preparation during the early part of it, at the port of Toulon, which became the subject of various conjectures. It consisted of 13 ships of the line, seven frigates, and some smaller armed vessels, with nearly 200 transports, carrying 20,000 regular troops, horses, artillery, and a vast quantity of provisions and military stores. In the fleet were also conveyed many artists of all kinds, men of science in all its different departments, linguists and proficients in literature, and in short, all the requisites for the foundation of a flourishing colony, and the advancement of general knowledge. The conduct of the whole was committed to Buonaparte, who, besides the character of the greatest general of the age, bore that of a man of superior talents and extraordinary resource. The expedition sailed on the 20th of May, and on June 9th, arrived off the island of Malta. Of this almost impregnable place possession was taken with so little resistance, that there is every reason to suspect a previous concert between the captors and the knights. Having left a sufficient garrison, Buonaparte sailed for his ultimate destination, and reached the coast of

Egypt on July 1st. The object of the expedition now disclosed itself, which was the conquest of that celebrated country, coveted not only as a valuable acquisition in itself, but as affording a station whence the English power in the East Indies, regarded by the French as the great source of their rival's wealth and prosperity, might be advantageously assailed. That Egypt was a portion of the Turkish empire, with which France was then at peace, formed no objection to the scheme; for it was pretended that the purpose of the French was to act as friends and allies to the Grand Seignior, by chastising the rebellious Beys. Buonaparte landed his troops, took Alexandria by storm, and marching up the country, gave the Beys a defeat which rendered him master of Cairo. He proclaimed peace and amity with the natives, organized a temporary government, and then set out in pursuit of the fugitive Beys to the confines of Syria.

The equipment of the Toulon fleet being known to the British ministry, though its destination was probably only matter of conjecture, it was determined to send a strong squadron to watch its motions, under the command of Admiral Nelson. It was a considerable time before a junction of the British force in the Mediterranean could be made, and though all possible diligence and activity were afterwards used in tracing the course of the enemy, he had reached his intended port before certain intelligence could be obtained of him. At length, on August 1st, the French fleet was descried at anchor across the Bay of Aboukir near the mouth of the Nile, consisting of 13 ships of the line and four frigates, commanded by Admiral Brueys, in the *L'Orient* of 120 guns. The English fleet was composed of the same number of ships of the line, and one of 50 guns. Nelson decided for an immediate attack; and disregarding the position of the French, moored in line of battle, and protected by shoals and batteries, he ran in to close engagement, ship to ship, in which operation one of the English of 74 guns grounded upon a shoal, and was not got off before the end of

the action. Several of the French ships had struck when night set in, which was rendered grandly terrific by the conflagration of the *L'Orient*, ending in a dreadful explosion, in which the Admiral and his whole crew of more than a thousand men perished. On the next morning the battle closed, with the capture of nine sail of the line, and the destruction of two more, and two frigates; and the British naval annals do not exhibit a victory more complete and glorious. Its effects all over Europe in enhancing the idea of British valour, and strengthening the antigallican cause, were extraordinary. At home it was received with unbounded transport, and honours of every kind were heaped upon the conquering commander, among which was the apposite title of Baron Nelson of the Nile.

One effect, however, which might have been expected from this great success, that of defeating the whole French enterprize, did not take place; for the genius of Buonaparte was able to provide for his army after all communication with Europe was cut off, and to make head against the numerous foes by which he was surrounded. He employed every art to reconcile the people of Egypt to the new dominion under which they had fallen; and he affected great respect for the Mahometan religion and its ministers. The necessary requisitions, however, could not fail of exciting discontents, and a violent insurrection broke out at Cairo on October 26th, which was not suppressed without much bloodshed. Numerous actions followed against the Mamelukes and Arabs, in which the French were generally successful; and they established their authority through the greatest part of Upper as well as of Lower Egypt. At the close of the year Buonaparte prepared to march against the Pashaw of Acre.

The progress of the French in Italy, and especially their invasion of the Roman territory, struck an alarm into the court of Naples, which was conscious of the disaffection of many of its own subjects. Great exertions were made by that government to augment the army, and put the country into a good state of defence,

and a close alliance was entered into with the imperial court, much to the displeasure of the French Directory, which remonstrated in a lofty and menacing style, and was at the same time sending reinforcements to the French troops at Rome. The victory of Nelson, as it inspired confidence in all the enemies of France throughout Italy, gave particular satisfaction to the Neapolitan Court, which it not only freed from all its terrors, but animated with courage to become the aggressors. The King of Naples had not hesitated to receive the British admiral with the most distinguished honours, and in no place was the destruction of the French fleet celebrated with more public rejoicings than in that capital. The Neapolitan army now amounted to 80,000 men well disciplined and officered, and General Mack was sent for out of Germany to take the supreme command. It was resolved that they should become the assailants; and the King, putting himself at the head, but under the conduct of Mack, entered the territory of the Roman republic on November 23d. For the purpose of a diversion, a British squadron, with a considerable body of troops on board, sailed to Leghorn, of which it took possession. This commencement of hostility afforded a pretext to the French for seizing all the remaining Italian territories of the King of Sardinia, whom they obliged to transport himself to his own island. Mack, in the meantime, having driven back the advanced posts of the Roman army, occupied a considerable tract of country; but his success was short-lived. The French General, Championnet, collecting the dispersed corps of his countrymen, marched against the Neapolitans, though greatly inferior in number to them, and a series of actions ensued, in every one of which the French were victorious. The final result was, that in the space of three weeks Mack found himself compelled to retreat to Naples, and put himself in a posture of defence at the head of an army on which he could place ~~no~~ reliance—so little does discipline avail without courage!

The oppressions of the French in the Belgian provinces, and in particular their military conscriptions, excited a formidable insurrection against their authority, which pervaded five departments during the autumn, and was not quelled without much bloodshed.

The Ottoman Porte declared war in September against the French republic, on account of its invasion of Egypt, and formed an alliance with Russia. Paul, the new sovereign of that vast empire, in whose character passion greatly predominated over policy, had surpassed all other potentates in the openness of his declarations of hostility to the French revolution, and had signified his intention of marching an army to the borders of France, and undertaking the restoration of the Bourbons. He had also declared himself protector and grand-master of the order of Malta, though its connections had hitherto been solely with Roman-catholic sovereigns; and on every occasion he displayed his detestation of French principles, and his attachment to all the ancient form and ceremonial of society. Such zeal, joined with so much power, therefore caused him to be regarded as an important accession to the anti-gallican association; and his co-operation was secured by a subsidy stipulated in a treaty concluded in December between him and the King of Great Britain.

The haughtiness and disregard of national rights which now characterized the proceedings of the French government was near involving it in a quarrel with the United States of America. Deputies having been sent to France from the States for the purpose of accommodating the subsisting differences, they were treated with so much arrogance, and demands were advanced so unjust in their nature, that preparations were made on their part for a spirited assertion of their independent dignity. Commissions for reprisals by sea were issued, resolutions were passed for equipping ships of war; the military establishment was augmented, and the supreme command was vested in General Washington.

The island of St. Domingo was totally evacuated by the English troops in May; and near the end of the

year, by the French ; and the negro chief, Toussaint l'Ouverture, remained possessed of the principal authority.

In November, the island of Minorca surrendered, with scarcely any resistance, to a British force commanded by General C. Stuart.

In the same month, the Isle of Gozo, near Malta, capitulated to a detachment of Admiral Nelson's squadron.

The autumnal session of parliament opened on November 20th, with a royal speech, in which the victory of the Nile, and the suppression of the Irish rebellion, were alluded to as subjects of national gratitude ; and the wisdom and magnanimity displayed by the Emperor of Russia, with the decision and vigour of the Ottoman Porte, were mentioned as examples to encourage other states in adopting a line of conduct which experience had shewn to be alone consistent with security and honour. The usual addresses were carried without opposition, though remarks were made on the confidence with which the success of a new confederation against the enemy seemed to be anticipated.

On the introduction of the statement of public expenditure, in which the supplies requisite for the ensuing year were estimated at 29,272,000*l.* the minister brought forward a new plan for raising a considerable part of them within the year, which was that of an income tax ; and he proposed a series of resolutions relative to it, which passed three readings in the House of Commons before the close of the year.

A. D. 1799.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 39 & 40.

PARLIAMENT 3 & 4.

Discussion on the Income Tax.—*Suspension of Habeas Corpus continued.*—*Message respecting an Union with Ireland, and Plan for that Purpose*—*Abolition of the Slave Trade negatived.*—*New Confederacy against France.*—*Arrival of the Russians under Suwarof in Moravia.*—*War declared by France against the Emperor of Austria*—*Campaign in Switzerland and Italy*—*French defeated at Novi*—*Russians retire to their own Country.*—*Naples recovered from the French*—*Sanguinary Executions of the Revolutionists there*—*Tuscany recovered; and Genoa the sole remaining Possession of the French*—*Expedition of the English and Russians to North Holland.*—*Capture of the Dutch Fleet at the Texel.*—*Duke of York takes the Command of the Land Forces.*—*Various Actions, and final Relinquishment of the Project.*—*Surinam reduced by the English.*—*Buonaparte's Invasion of Syria, and unsuccessful Siege of Acre.*—*Defeats a Turkish Army in Egypt.*—*He returns to France*—*Party Contentions there, terminating in the Dissolution of the existing Constitution.*—*Formation of a new Constitution.*—*Buonaparte nominated First Consul.*—*War renewed with Tippoo.*—*Seringapatam taken by General Harris; Death of Tippoo, and Extinction of the Mysore Kingdom.*—*Autumnal Session of Parliament.*—*Royal Speech, and Bill for extending the voluntary Service of the Militia.*—*Death of the Pope.*

THE parliamentary year began with further discussions of that important measure of finance, the income tax. Mr. Pitt's proposed resolutions were, in substance, that the augmentation of the assessed taxes should be repealed, and in its place a duty of ten per cent. upon income should be substituted, to commence with incomes above 60*l.* a year, but in a reduced ratio from that sum to 200*l.*; the return of income by individuals to be according to their own statement, but liable to checks by surveyors if there were reason to

suspect deficiency. He calculated the national income at 102 millions, which would produce a tax of 10 millions. A bill being framed upon these principles, various objections were made to it in its passage through the two Houses, but it was carried by great majorities, and after several amendments, passed into a law.

A motion for a bill to continue the suspension of the habeas corpus act was brought in by Mr. Pitt in December, and though opposed in both Houses as a measure of which the necessity had ceased, it was carried through by great majorities early in January.

The most interesting subject introduced to parliament during this session was the legislative union of Ireland with Great Britain. On January 22d a message was received from his Majesty by both Houses, which recommended to each the consideration of the most effectual means to defeat the design of our enemies to promote a separation between the two kingdoms, by settling such a complete and final adjustment, as might perpetuate a connection essential for their common security, and consolidate the power and resources of the British empire. A motion for taking this message into consideration being carried in the House of Commons, Mr. Pitt, on January 31st, after expatiating upon the necessity of an intimate connection between the two countries, and the advantages which Ireland would derive from an union, proceeded to state certain resolutions for the basis of such a measure. These were, that the two islands should be united into one kingdom by the name of the "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,"—that the succession to the crown should be limited and settled as at present—that the United Kingdom should be represented by one common parliament, in which a number of Lords and Commons to be hereafter agreed on should have a seat on the part of Ireland—that the churches of England and Ireland be preserved as now by law established—that the King's subjects of Ireland be entitled to the same privileges in point of trade and navigation with those of Great

Britain (to this resolution were annexed several articles relative to equality of duties, countervailing duties, &c.) — that the charge for the payment of the interest of the debt of each kingdom before the union shall continue to be paid by Great Britain and Ireland separately, but that the future ordinary expences of the United Kingdom shall be defrayed by them jointly, according to proportions to be established by the parliament of each kingdom as agreed upon previously to the union — that all laws in force at the time of the union, and all the Courts civil and ecclesiastical in each kingdom, shall remain as now established, subject only to such alterations as from circumstances may seem requisite to the united parliament. A motion being then made for submitting these propositions to a committee of the whole House, it was carried on a division by 140 votes to 15. After considerable debates, the resolutions, with some amendments, were agreed to, and sent up to the House of Peers, where they underwent a farther discussion. The conclusion was, that a joint address to the King was voted by each House, presenting these resolutions as those which appeared to them best calculated for a basis of the desired settlement between the two kingdoms.

Mr. Wilberforce's annual motion for the abolition of the slave trade had in this session to encounter an additional opposition, arising from the existence of a negro army in St. Domingo, and the efforts made to propagate *democratical* principles through the West Indian Islands. It was therefore negatived by a majority of 84 to 54.

This year was rendered memorable on the continent of Europe by the efforts of a new confederacy against the power of France. A congress had been sitting during the whole of the last year at Rastadt, for the purpose of finally settling the perplexed affairs of Germany, and giving a lasting peace to the empire; and after tedious discussions, there appeared a prospect of a speedy agreement between the French plenipotentiaries and those of the German powers; when the approach of a

Russian army threw every thing back to a state of hostility. The French having been required to perform some conditions according to promise, an answer was given, that if the diet of the empire consented to admit Russian troops into the territory of the empire, or if it did not exert all its power to oppose their entrance, the neutrality would be considered as violated, and the negotiation at Rastadt as dissolved. An unsatisfactory reply being returned, the siege of the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, which had been long blockaded by the French, was pushed, and it was obliged to surrender in January. By this event the French became masters of both banks of the Rhine from Dusseldorf to Schaffhausen; and their troops immediately repassed that river into Suabia, under the command of General Jourdan.

The Russian army of 60,000 men, commanded by the celebrated Suwarof, arrived at Brunn in Moravia in the middle of December, and were received with the greatest demonstrations of favour by the imperial court. The Emperor assembled his troops on the Lech; and being brought to a resolution of resuming his arms, by the view of so powerful a confederate, and the promises of pecuniary support from England, the French residents at Ratisbon and Munich were ordered to quit those towns in twenty-four hours. In the month of March the directory declared war against the Emperor, and Jourdan advanced towards the Danube. He was opposed by the Archduke Charles; and after some very vigorous actions, he was at length obliged to evacuate Suabia, and in April to repass the Rhine. In the meantime the country of the Grisons had been the scene of active hostility between the French and Austrians, in which the former had generally the advantage, and about the middle of March they had gained possession of almost the whole of the Grison territory. Being defeated in an attempt to penetrate into Tyrol, and their arms being now engaged with Suwarof in Italy, the Austrians resolved upon an attempt to recover from the French, Switzerland and the Grison country. The lat-

ter was soon re-conquered by Generals Bellegarde and Hotze, the French were driven from St. Gothard, and Switzerland became the seat of war. Massena, who had now the supreme command, fixed his head-quarters at Basle in April, and in May occupied a strong position before Zurich, where he acted upon the defensive against the Archduke.

The French and Austrian armies in the north of Italy began active operations towards the close of March, and the former were soon after driven with great loss from the left bank of the Adige, and obliged to retire beyond the Mincio. The Austrian General Melas crossed that river, and in the middle of April was joined by the Russians under Suwarof, who took the command of the combined army. This change in the face of affairs caused a general insurrection of the Italians against the French, who, after several defeats, were successively expelled from all the principal towns in the north of Italy. These disasters induced General Macdonald to evacuate the kingdom of Naples, and cross the Appennines, when he recovered several places; Suwarof, however, after a number of actions, compelled him to retreat. The command of the army in Italy being restored to Joubert, he fought the bloody battle of Novi against Suwarof on August 16th, which, after a most obstinate contest, ended in an entire defeat of the French, with the death of Joubert, and a great loss of men and ordnance. Suwarof in the following month marched for Switzerland.

In that country, Massena having been forced to abandon his position before Zurich, which place was taken possession of by the Austrians, he occupied a new post beyond the Limmat, which the Archduke was not able to force. The Russians under General Korsakow having in the end of August replaced the Austrians, Massena made an attack upon them, and after a severe action, compelled them to retreat with very great loss; and it was with difficulty that the Russian general conducted the remainder of his forces across the Rhine. Suwarof, in a rapid march having crossed the Alps, drove

the French from St. Gothard, which they had again occupied. Not receiving, however, the expected aid from the Austrians, and finding his countrymen under Korsakow already discomfited, he was obliged to make a fighting retreat towards the lake of Constance. After prodigious exertions of valour, he arrived there with a much diminished army, and effected a junction with the remains of Korsakow's corps. He then marched to Augsburg, where he received orders to lead back all the Russians to their own country; and thus ended the co-operation of the Emperor of Russia.

After Massena's departure from Naples, Cardinal Ruffo, at the head of the royalist army in that country, with some Russian auxiliaries, having defeated some of the republican levies opposed to him, marched to the capital, which surrendered to him on June 20th. A confederate force of English, Russians, Italians, Portuguese, and Turks, coming into port under the convoy of Lord Nelson, obtained possession of the castles of Ovo and Nuovo, and invested that of St. Almo, which capitulated on July 12th. Capua and Gaeta were afterwards taken by the assistance of the English. The French in all these fortresses stipulated to be sent to France on condition of not serving till exchanged; but the Neapolitan revolutionists, who understood that they were promised an amnesty, were for the most part delivered up to the vengeance of the Queen, and a dreadful execution took place, comprising some of the most distinguished of the Neapolitan patriots, and even some ladies. The part taken by the English admiral in this tragedy was much blamed, and remains a blot upon a character so illustrious in many respects. Civita Vecchia was afterwards blocked up by Commodore Troubridge, and the Pope was restored to his see of Rome, chiefly by the assistance of the English. The whole of Tuscany was also recovered by the Austrian troops in the North of Italy; and at the close of the campaign, Genoa and its territory was the only remaining possession of the French in Italy.

An incursion of the French on the Maine and Neckar had been the cause that the Archduke Charles quitted Switzerland, where he was facing Massena at Zurich, and marched with part of his army into Germany. The remaining part of the campaign in that country afforded a variety of fortune, but it terminated in the recrossing of the Rhine by the French.

Whilst the arms of France were apparently provided with full occupation in Germany and Italy, and in the theatre of transmarine war which engaged the most successful of its commanders, a favourable occasion seemed to be offered for recovering Holland from its dominion. A plan was therefore concerted between the courts of Great Britain and Péttersburg, for a conjoint expedition to the Dutch coast, in the hope that they would be received by the people as their deliverers from a galling and ruinous servitude. Early in August a body of troops was collected on the coast of Kent, and on the 13th of that month, Sir Ralph Abercrombie, their commander, set sail with Admiral Mitchell, and joined the fleet of Lord Duncan in the North Seas. They had much bad weather to encounter before they came to an anchor off the Helder, a point which commands the entrance to the Zuyder Zee, where the troops were disembarked on the 27th. The fort of the Helder being abandoned by its garrison, was taken possession of and strengthened, and the island of the Texel was occupied by the fleet. On the 30th Admiral Mitchell summoned the Dutch fleet to surrender, and to hoist the Orange flag, which was complied with without a shot fired; the number of ships being eight of the line, three of 54 guns, eight of 44, seven of inferior rates, and four Indiamen. The French and Batavian troops under General Brune, 25,000 strong, now occupied a position between the Helder and Alkmaer, and on September 10th they made an attack on the British forces, commanded by General Abercrombie, in which they were repulsed with considerable loss.

The Duke of York landed in Holland on the 13th, to take the chief command of the army, which, when

joined by all its reinforcements, consisted of nearly 35,000 men, of whom 17,000 were Russians. On the 19th a general attack being determined upon, the army advanced in four columns through a tract intersected with ditches, and forced their way with great gallantry; but the column of Russians being at length compelled to retreat, the whole design failed. A further succour having arrived, the army renewed its attack on the enemy's whole line on October 2d, and after the warm action of a whole day, gave the French a defeat with great loss, which obliged them to retreat to a new position near Beverwyck, almost at the extremity of North Holland. An attempt made on the 6th to force this position proved unsuccessful; and the French being now reinforced, the weather becoming more inclement, and not the smallest movement appearing in the country to favour the design, it was resolved to persist no longer in fruitless efforts. On October 17th, a suspension of arms was agreed upon by the opposite commanders, on the conditions that all prisoners should be given up on both sides, and that, as the price of permitting the British to re-embark without molestation, 8000 seamen, Dutch or French, prisoners in England, should be liberated. The army was to evacuate Holland before the close of November; it was, however, embarked without delay, and nearly 4000 Dutch deserters were brought to England with the British troops. The Russians were landed and quartered in Guernsey and Jersey.

In addition to the naval loss which the Batavian republic sustained on this occasion, it was deprived in this year of the rich settlement of Surinam, which, on August 20th, voluntarily surrendered to a small squadron under the command of Lord Hugh Seymour, commander-in-chief of the forces in the Caribbee islands. The articles of capitulation gave full security to the persons and property of the inhabitants of the colony, but resigned to his Britannic Majesty the public property of every kind. It was also provided, that in case Surinam should remain in possession of Great Britain

at the conclusion of peace, it should enjoy every right and commercial privilege belonging to the British colonies in the West Indies.

Buonaparte was left in our narrative at the close of the last year preparing for an expedition against the Pashaw of Acre. This person, Djezzar Oglou by name, at an advanced age preserved the vigour by which he had always been characterized, together with the sanguinary ferocity usually accompanying that vigour in an oriental. He had given offence to the French conqueror of Egypt by his favourable reception of Ibrahim Bey, who, with a thousand Mamelukes, had taken refuge in Syria. Buonaparte's enterprize began with laying siege to El-Arisch, which, after a defeat of the Mamelukes by the united divisions of Kleber and Reignier, surrendered on February 20th. Gaza was next taken possession of without resistance; and Jaffa was carried by storm. Buonaparte thence sent a letter to Djezzar, which was verbally answered by a defiance; and on March 18th the French appeared before Acre, and on the 20th opened trenches against it. Sir Sidney Smith, in the *Tigre* of 84 guns, was at this time in the road of Acre, as an ally to the Pashaw in its defence; and he had the good fortune of taking a whole French flotilla laden with heavy artillery, ammunition, and all kinds of articles for a siege, which capture also supplied 14 pieces of cannon to be mounted on the ramparts of the town, and on gun-vessels. The nature of the ground, however, permitted the French to advance their trenches within half-musket shot of the town ditch; and having made a breach in the wall, they attempted to carry the place by assault, but were repulsed. An alternation of attacks on the part of the besiegers, and of sorties on that of the garrison, in which great slaughter was made on both sides, succeeded during sixty days, at the end of which, Buonaparte, who had pitilessly exposed his men to dangers of every kind, gave up the attempt, and commenced a retreat. He had, however, defeated an army from Damascus which came to the relief of the place,

and had frustrated the design of Djezzar to invade Egypt; so that the enterprize was not entirely without advantage. On his return to Egypt he retrieved the French affairs, which had been suffering in his absence; and on July 25th, he gave a signal defeat at Aboukir to a Turkish army which had been landed there. He was soon, however, to quit this theatre of exertion for one infinitely more splendid and important.

The misfortunes which had attended the French arms in the early part of this year's European campaign, with the instances of rapacity and exaction which had been produced by the financial difficulties of the state, had aggravated the unpopularity under which the directory laboured; and after the election of a new third of the legislature, and the removal of Rewbel by the lot of secession, their influence was so much impaired, that three of them thought proper to resign, and Barras alone kept his seat. To him were aggregated four others, one of whom was the Abbé Sieyes; but the party contests continued to be very violent and disorderly, and a general insurrection against the existing authorities was prevailing in the western departments. In this state of things, France was surprised by the sudden appearance of Buonaparte from Egypt. By whose instigation, or with what precise views, he took this step, will probably ever remain a political mystery: his letter to the army at Alexandria dated August 23d, was to the following effect: "In consequence of news from Europe, I have determined immediately to return to France. I leave the command of the army to General Kleber. It shall hear from me speedily: this is all I can say at present." He previously selected a number of persons to return with him; and having communicated his design only to Berthier, chief of his staff, he gave orders to Admiral Gantheaume to have in readiness two frigates and two sloops. Leaving the road of Aboukir on the 24th, the small squadron arrived at Corsica on September 30th. Thence, after passing with crowded sails an English squadron, he reached Frejus on October 7th. He was received with enthusiasm at every place he passed in his road to Paris, and at

the capital itself: it appeared as if the good genius of France was returned, and all its difficulties were on the point of being terminated. The two parties then most prevalent, those of the Jacobins or rigid republicans, and of the moderates, both courted and caressed him; but his own aim was to attach the military, and he obtained the support of many distinguished generals who were then in Paris. After some time passed in political intrigues, the council of elders was suddenly convened, who passed a vote for the removal of the legislative assembly to St. Cloud, and invested Buonaparte with the supreme command of every species of armed force in the capital. The result of these measures was the resignation, voluntary or forced, of the directors. But while the council of elders had been brought with little difficulty to concur in the designs now in agitation, the council of five hundred had by no means been so compliant; and although Lucien Buonaparte, brother to the general, was at this time its president, an uproar arose on the entrance of the latter, in which even his life was endangered, and he was rescued by a general with a party of grenadiers. The conclusion of scenes which will form a remarkable and interesting part of the history of this extraordinary person, but the detail of which has no proper place in this summary, was the dissolution of the existing constitution, and the appointment of a provisional government, consisting of three consuls, Sieyes, Ducos, and Buonaparte, to be assisted by committees chosen out of the legislative body, which was itself adjourned.

After the adoption of various measures to reform abuses, and conciliate those whom severe and unjust laws had rendered hostile to the state, the formation of a new constitution was the leading object of the provisional government. This was presented to the French nation on December 15th, and consisted of an executive composed of three consuls, one bearing the title of *chief*, and, in fact, possessing all the authority; of a conservative senate composed of eighty members appointed for life, the first sixty to be nomi-

nated by the consuls, and the number to be completed by adding two annually for ten years; and a legislative body of three hundred members, with a tribunate of one hundred. This constitution was almost unanimously accepted; and Buonaparte was nominated first or chief consul for a term of ten years.

Among the memorable events of this year was the fall of Tippoo Sultan, and the extinction of the Mysore kingdom. This sovereign, who ill brooked the retrenchment of his power and dominion consequent on his last war with the English Company, had entered into negotiation with the governor of the Isle of France, and with the Nizam of the Decan, in 1798, and had also sent an embassy to Zemaun Shah, the powerful King of Cabul, for the purpose of instigating him to an attack of the British territories on the northern side of India. Buonaparte, on his arrival in Egypt, dispatched a letter to Tippoo, apprizing him of that circumstance, and of his wish to deliver him from the yoke of the English, and requesting him to send a confidential person to Suez or Cairo to confer with him. Tippoo with these views before him had been gradually augmenting his military establishment; and although, on the discovery of his intrigues, he had been admonished by Lord Mornington, the governor-general of India, he declined entering into an amicable negotiation. His lordship foreseeing the necessity of a rupture with this prince, determined to anticipate him; and having called into the field the British force on the Coromandel and Malabar coasts, together with that of the Nizam, at whose court an attempt to establish the influence of Tippoo and the French had been defeated, he directed Major-General Harris, at the head of the Madras army of 24,000 men, to form a junction with the Nizam's troops, and march into the Mysore country. On March 5th, General Harris entered Mysore, and proceeded directly to Seringapatam, where he was joined by the Bombay army, commanded by General Stuart. On April 30th a commencement was made of battering in breach the defences of that capital, and on May 4th a storm was directed which proved successful in every part. After

resistance had ceased in every other quarter, a fire was kept up from the palace of Tippoo, where he was in person. Two of his sons surrendered to the surrounding soldiers on assurance of safety, and it was soon after announced that Tippoo was dead. His body was found late in the evening under a heap of slain, and was interred with the customary honours in his father's mausoleum. On a division of his territories made on June 24th, Seringapatam, with the island in which it is situated, some extensive districts including Mangalore, and a long line of sea-coast, were allotted to the English; a considerable portion was assigned to the Nizam; and a separate sovereignty was conferred on a descendant of the ancient Rajahs of Mysore, who had been dispossessed by Hyder.

The British parliament was again assembled as early as September 24th, the chief purpose of which, as declared in the King's speech, was for considering the propriety of enabling his Majesty to avail himself to a farther extent of the voluntary services of the militia. Notice was taken in the speech of the great improvement of our prospects since the close of the last session; and an expectation was expressed of success in the effort then making for the deliverance of the United Provinces. The business of the militia was immediately introduced to parliament by the ministers, in a proposed bill by which, instead of one-fourth, as allowed by the act of last session, three-fifths of the militia of each county were permitted to enlist in the regulars for service within Europe, with a bounty of ten guineas on such enlistment. The bill, though opposed on the ground of its entirely subverting all the constitutional purposes of the militia establishment, and of its being partial, as not extending to Scotland, was passed into a law on October 4th. The other parliamentary business previous to the winter recess related chiefly to financial and commercial matters.

Pope Pius VI. died on August 29th, in the 82d year of his age, at Valence in Dauphiné, whither he had been conveyed from a convent near Florence by order of the French directory.

A. D. 1800.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 40 & 41.
 ——— PARLIAMENT 4 & 5.

Overture for a pacific Negotiation by Buonaparte, and Reply by Lord Grenville — Communication of the same to Parliament. — Motion for Enquiry into the Dutch Expedition. — Finances. — Completion of the Irish Union. — Suspension of the Habeas Corpus continued. — Measures for relieving the Scarcity of Bread. — Final Pacification of the Royalists in France. — Genoa evacuated by the French after a long Siege. — Buonaparte crosses the Alps into Italy, and gains Milan and Pavia. — His Victory at Marengo, and Armistice granted to the Austrians in Italy. — Genoa recovered, and Cisalpine Republic declared. — Moreau's Campaign against the Austrians in Germany. — Armistice granted and prolonged. — Hostilities renewed: Battle of Hohenlinden, and separate Peace made by the Emperor. — Affairs in Egypt. — Treaty of El Arish signed, but not confirmed. — Insurrection against the French at Cairo. — Assassination of General Kleber. — Gorée surrendered to the British. — Unsuccessful Attempt on Ferrol. — Reduction of Malta by the British Troops. — Curacao taken. — Failure at Cadiz. — Ionian Republic founded. — Danish Frigate and Convoy stopped. — A Squadron sent to Copenhagen, and Consequences. — The Emperor Paul declares against Great Britain. — Armed Neutrality. — Renewed Negotiations between England and France, finally fruitless. — Parliament re-assembled on Account of the Scarcity of Grain. — Measures adopted. — Bill for ascertaining the Population. — Other Parliamentary Proceedings. — Election of Pope Pius VII.

BUONAPARTE had but just been seated in the chair of first consul, when he addressed a letter to the King of Great Britain for the purpose of engaging him to enter upon a negotiation for a general peace. It was written with manly simplicity, and all the air of perfect sincerity; the step which he took being, as he said, “entirely confidential, and disengaged from those forms which, necessary perhaps to disguise the dependence of weak states, prove, in those which are strong, only the mutual

desire of deceiving each other." This letter did not meet with a corresponding return. It was given to be answered to Lord Grenville, the foreign secretary of state, whose reply was in the form of an official note addressed to M. Talleyrand, the French minister for foreign affairs. Going back to the origin of the war with France, and reciting in indignant terms the wrongs inflicted upon Europe by that nation since the revolution, it affirmed that the best pledge for the prevalence of better principles in France would be the restoration of its ancient line of princes. His Majesty, however, (it was said) made no claim to prescribe to France the form of her government, and whenever there should appear a sufficient security to his own dominions and the rest of Europe, he would eagerly embrace the opportunity of concerting with his allies the means of a general pacification; but no such security at present existing, his Majesty would pursue, in conjunction with other powers, the exertions of a just and defensive war. An official note was returned by M. Talleyrand in refutation of the charges brought in that of Lord Grenville; but concluding with the proposal of a suspension of hostilities, and the appointment of plenipotentiaries on each side to meet at Dunkirk or some other place, for the purpose of re-establishing amity between the two nations. Lord Grenville's rejoinder, January 20th, repeated the sentiments of his first note; and thus the correspondence terminated.

On January 22d, parliament being re-assembled, a message was delivered from the King, which began with observing that the supplies granted at the commencement of the session having been calculated only for the first months of the year, it was desirable that provision should be made for the vigorous prosecution of the war. Notice was then taken of the communications lately received from the enemy, which, with the answers returned, should be laid before parliament, in the confidence that the latter would appear conformable to the line of conduct required from his Majesty on the occasion. A second message was presented relative to the

accommodation of the Russian troops in Guernsey and Jersey; and a day was appointed for taking both into consideration. On that day warm debates took place in each House on the subject of the reception given to the proposal of the first consul; but so prevalent was the feeling of dislike and suspicion towards the French government, that the approving address was voted in the House of Lords by a majority of 79 to 6; and in the House of Commons by 260 to 64.

It is of little importance to notice other topics of parliamentary debate, which were decided by majorities that took away all interest from discussion. One of these was the late expedition to Holland, on which subject an enquiry was moved in each House; and it is certain that much public dissatisfaction was expressed with the manner in which that enterprize terminated. The ministers, however, were not likely to consent to a measure which might give rise to unpleasant contention, and the enquiry was quashed. The financial resolutions proposed by Mr. Pitt exhibited a large increase in the national expenditure; the requisite supply being stated at thirty-nine and a half millions. To such a sum it was impossible to apply the principle of raising the greater part by taxes within the year; and therefore, in addition to the income tax and other additional duties, a loan of eighteen and a half millions was made a part of the ways and means.

The most important business of the present session was that of bringing to a conclusion the proposed union of Great Britain and Ireland. The resolutions on this subject which had passed the British parliament having been transmitted to Ireland, a great dislike to the measure was manifested in Dublin and other towns; and on the meeting of the Irish Parliament on January 15th, a motion was made in the House of Commons that a disapprobation of an union should be declared in their address to the lord-lieutenant. This was negatived by 138 votes against 96, and the whole plan of the union was afterwards brought forward by the ministers in both Houses. To the articles already

mentioned as forming the resolutions, it is only necessary here to add, that the number of Irish members to be admitted into the united parliament was stated, in the House of Lords, at four Lords spiritual by rotation of sessions, and twenty-eight Lords temporal elected for life by the Peers of Ireland; and in the House of Commons, at one hundred representatives. After much debate, in which considerable warmth was shewn by the opponents of the union, the principle of the resolutions was approved by a large majority, and a correspondent address to the King was voted. The subject being again introduced to the British parliament, it was discussed in both Houses, the principal topic of debate being the probable effects of the union upon the constitution; respecting which, it was contended by the opposition, that the influence of the crown arising from places in Ireland being on this plan to be concentrated upon a hundred representatives, instead of the whole former number of the House of Commons, it would necessarily be augmented. In reply to this objection, Mr. Pitt calculated that the number of placemen among the hundred would not exceed twenty. In that minister's speech on this topic, touching upon the subject of parliamentary reform, he took occasion to declare "his most decided opinion, that even if the times were proper for experiments, any even the slightest change in the representation must be considered as an evil,"—a declaration which was received by unusually loud cries of "Hear!" from the opposition benches. The whole proceedings in both countries relative to this great national measure being at length closed, the act of union received the royal assent on July 2d.

A motion by the attorney-general for renewing the act for suspending the habeas corpus bill, produced that opposition which might be expected in a British parliament, to the continuance of an infringement of constitutional liberty, the necessity of which was yearly becoming less apparent. It was however argued, that we were not yet so well secured from internal dangers as to render it prudent to lay aside safeguards, the utility of

which had been experienced ; and facts to this purpose were referred to, contained in a copious report of the national disturbances published in the last year by the committee of parliament. The effect of this reasoning, and perhaps the habit for some years past of acquiescing in the call of ministers for the suspension, caused the motion to pass by majorities as decisive ~~as~~ before. A bill for continuing the act for the better securing and punishing such persons as should attempt to seduce his Majesty's subjects from their allegiance, was also passed about the same time.

At this period, a scarcity of corn had raised the price of that necessary of life higher than had ever been known, and a committee of each House of parliament was appointed to consider of the most effectual means for remedying this distress. After much discussion on the subject, a bill was brought in and passed, prohibiting the sale of bread which had not been baked twenty-four hours ; it being generally agreed that the consumption of stale bread would be much less than that of new. Resolutions were also entered into by the members of both Houses to lessen as much as possible the use of bread and flour in their families, and their example was generally imitated by persons of the superior ranks throughout the kingdom. The hand of charity, too, was liberally extended, and the lower classes testified their sense of these exertions for the most part by a patient and quiet behaviour.

In France, the conciliatory means employed by Buonaparte on his accession to power for composing the troubles in the western departments were only partially successful, a considerable number of royalists or Chouans still remaining in arms. It was therefore resolved to join vigour with lenity ; and General Brune being nominated to the chief command, he entered upon action in the month of February, and issued a proclamation offering his last conditions to the insurgents. Some of their parties who held out on expectation of farther aid from England were routed and dispersed ; and on February 15th a pacification was concluded, all

their chiefs, one excepted, submitting to the government. A general disarming took place in all the departments, at which a vast quantity of arms, stores, and provisions were delivered up. The disposition of the new rulers of France was now so far confided in, that a number of emigrants returned, many of whom were restored to their estates.

Great Britain and Austria having signified their determination to continue the war, the first consul addressed a proclamation to the French people, in which he complained of the pertinacious hostility of the English, and set forth the necessity of furnishing men and subsidies in order to acquire peace by force of arms. A consular decree was at the same time published, for a levy of an army of reserve to assemble at Dijon, whither Buonaparte was to repair in person to take the command.

It has been mentioned that at the close of the preceding campaign, Genoa and its territory alone were held by the French in Italy. Massena, who had been appointed to the command in that quarter, on his arrival found the French forces so much reduced by sickness and desertion, that it was necessary to concentrate them for the defence of Genoa. This city in the beginning of April was invested by the Austrian general by land, whilst it was blocked up at sea by an English fleet under Lord Keith. Massena, who threw himself into the place, conducted the defence with a vigour and resolution which have seldom been surpassed; and it was famine alone that, after terrible sufferings on the part of the poor inhabitants, in which his own men at length shared, induced him to enter into a treaty for the evacuation of Genoa. It was concluded on June 5th, on conditions honourable to the defenders.

The first consul, in the mean time, having ordered the army of reserve, with the consular guard, which had assembled at Dijon, to proceed by the Pais de Vaud and the Lower Valais to the vicinity of the Great St. Bernard, joined it on May 6th, and immediately prepared for crossing that formidable mountain. The

passage being effected, he pursued his march into Italy, and clearing all obstacles, obtained possession of Milan and Pavia, the latter on the very day of the evacuation of Genoa. The French army then crossing the Po, defeated the Austrians with considerable loss at Montebello. The main Austrian army had now fixed its head quarters at Alessandria; and on the plain between that place and Tortona, was fought on June 16th, the famous battle of Marengo. In this bloody and well contested action, the French were at one time nearly surrounded, and the fortune of Buonaparte trembled on the balance; when in the critical moment, Dessaix, arriving with his division, bore down all opposition, and secured the victory to his commander, at the purchase of his own life. The Austrians retreated on all sides; and on the following day their general acknowledged the extent of his loss by a proposal for an armistice. It was accepted on the condition dictated by the victor, "that the Austrian army should immediately retire within the line which it ought to occupy according to the treaty of Campo Formio." This condition left a number of important places in the hands of the French, and among these, Genoa, which had lately been gained from them at so great an expence. Buonaparte then went to Milan to re-establish the Cisalpine republic, which he declared a free and independent nation.

The French army on the Upper Rhine, under the command of General Moreau, crossed that river in four divisions on April 25th, and the greater part being concentrated at Schaffhausen, advanced against the Austrians under General Kray. After several sharp actions and masterly manœuvres, the French penetrated to Ulm. Moreau, apprized of the success of Buonaparte in Italy, now crossed the Danube and drove the Austrians from their entrenched camp, thereby laying all that part of Germany open to contribution. He then spread over Bavaria, took possession of Munich, and approached the frontiers of Austria. Under these alarming circumstances the Austrians solicited an

armistice (that in Italy not having extended to Germany) which, at the desire of the first consul, was acceded to by Moreau on July 15th, and on the 28th; preliminaries of peace were signed between France and Austria. The Emperor, however, who had entered into a new treaty with Great Britain, by which it was agreed that neither party should conclude a peace which did not comprehend the other, refused to ratify the preliminaries. The armistice expiring in September, preparations were made for a renewal of hostilities, and the Emperor in person, with his brother the Archduke John, repaired to the army. He thought proper, however, to apply for a prolongation of the armistice, which was granted by the first consul, on the condition of putting into the hands of the French, Philipsburg, Ulm, and Ingolstadt, by way of security.

Hostilities being renewed on November 29th, near the river Inn, with some success on the part of the Austrians, the Archduke John, on December 3d, made an attack on the French post at Hohenlinden. A general engagement ensued, in which the Austrians were entirely defeated, and in consequence, the French gained possession of Saltzburg. The other French armies were also successful in their several positions; and the Archduke Charles, who had now taken the supreme command, seeing no hope of an effectual resistance, proposed another armistice, which was agreed to on December 25th. The Emperor was now reduced to declare his willingness to negotiate a separate peace, and the British court, sensible of the necessity of his circumstances, released him from the terms of his alliance.

When Buonaparte quitted Egypt, he left General Kleber in the supreme command of the army. This able officer made a vigorous resistance to the Turkish Grand Vizier, who, with a numerous army, marched into Egypt for the purpose of expelling the French, and was assisted by an English fleet under the command of Sir Sydney Smith. He could not, however, prevent the recovery

of the fortress of El Arish by the Turks near the close of 1799; and being sensible that the reduced state of the French force rendered it unequal to the retention of Egypt, he acceded to a treaty for the evacuation of that country, on the condition of the unmolested return of the French troops to Europe, which was signed on January 24th, at El Arish, and was confirmed by Sir S. Smith. The English ministry, however, unwilling to permit such a reinforcement to the French armies during their war with the Emperor, on hearing that such a negotiation was contemplated, sent orders to Lord Keith not to ratify any convention with that condition annexed. That Admiral accordingly sent a letter to Kleber, acquainting him that he had received positive orders not to agree to any capitulation with the troops under his command, unless they should consent to lay down their arms, surrender themselves prisoners of war, and deliver up all the ships and stores in the port of Alexandria; and moreover, that in the event of such capitulation, he could not permit any of the troops to depart for France before they had been exchanged. Kleber communicated this letter to his army with the following words: "Soldiers! to such insults we shall reply by victories. Prepare for battle." Hostilities recommenced on March 20th, when Kleber made an attack on the Vizier's army, the greater part of which fled without a gun fired; and being pursued, they retreated with precipitation to Jaffa, losing half their number by fatigue or desertion. The French general was prevented from making advantage of this victory by a general insurrection in Cairo, in which the Christians were pillaged, and many of them massacred, and the few French then in the city were obliged to take refuge in the citadel. * By timely reinforcements they were enabled to hold out till the return of Kleber, who, after some sanguinary conflicts, at length obliged the insurgents to capitulate, and the Turkish army, which had come to their assistance, to evacuate Cairo, and return to Syria. Kleber was proceeding to restore order, and establish useful regulations, when,

on June 18th, he was stabbed by a fanatic, and was succeeded in his authority by General Menou.

The other military events of the year were of no considerable importance.

In the month of April, Sir Charles Hamilton, captain of the *Melpomene*, appearing with another ship before the French fort of Goree on the coast of Africa, it was surrendered to him without resistance.

In August, a fleet under the command of Sir J. Borlase Warren, with a land force on board, under that of Sir James Murray Pulteney, sailed upon a secret expedition. Having looked into Bellisle, which was found defended by works the strength of which discouraged an attempt upon it, the armament proceeded to the coast of Spain, and on the 25th, arrived before the port of Ferrol. The troops landed without opposition, and marched to the heights overlooking the harbour, where they had a successful skirmish with the Spaniards. A survey of the place from that eminence, however, with the report of the prisoners, convinced the commander that an attempt to carry it would be attended with more hazard than hope of success; he therefore re-embarked his troops, and the expedition terminated, in a manner very little satisfactory to the public.

The island of Malta, the chief place of which, La Valetta, had been two years under blockade, surrendered to the British troops in September. A scarcity of provision, and the landing of a reinforcement to the besiegers, were the immediate causes of the capitulation of the French commander, by the terms of which, the French garrison were to be conveyed to Marseilles as prisoners of war, not to serve again till exchanged. Some time before, a part of the garrison had left the port, with two French frigates, one of which was taken.

The Dutch island of Curaçao surrendered to the British arms in September, after being evacuated by the French force which possessed it.

The British Mediterranean fleet of 22 sail of the

line, and 27 frigates, commanded by Lord Keith, with transports conveying 20,000 men under the command of Sir R. Abercrombie, appeared in October off Cadiz, in which city a severe epidemic was then raging. The Spanish governor sent a letter to the admiral strongly remonstrating against any attempt to add to the calamity under which the unfortunate place was labouring. An answer was returned, stating, that as the ships in its port were to be employed in augmenting the force of the French navy, their surrender was a necessary condition for averting an attack. This proposal being indignantly rejected by the governor, arrangements were made for a descent; the consideration, however, of the strength of the works, and the danger of infection, induced the armament to leave Cadiz.

In this year was established a new insular republic, named the Ionian, consisting of the isles of Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, and others, lately in the possession of Venice. It was to pay a moderate tribute to the Porte, and its independence was guaranteed both by the Turks and Russians.

The subject of maritime rights, in which this nation is so deeply concerned, was in this year brought into contest in a manner which prepared the way for important results. Various circumstances had occurred during the war, in which the neutral powers in the north of Europe conceived they had reason to complain of the conduct of the British navy, in forcibly detaining and capturing their ships, on the pretext of contraband trade with the belligerent powers. One of these instances took place in December 1799, when a Danish frigate conveying some merchant-men in the vicinity of Gibraltar, refused to permit the search of some English frigates, and fired into a boat sent for that purpose. This difference was however compromised by a disavowal of orders by the Danish court. A similar case in this year was attended with more serious consequences. On July 25th, a Danish frigate, the Freya, with a convoy under her protection, was met with

at the mouth of the Channel by four English frigates and two smaller vessels, when an officer from the foremost of the frigates came on board the *Freya*, and desired leave to search the convoy. The captain alleged that he could not give such permission without violating his instructions, but offered to lay all the ships' papers before the English commanders; and when the officer persisted in his demand of search, the captain repeated his refusal. The commodore of the squadron then laying his ship alongside of the Danish frigate, after some farther altercation, gave her a full broadside, which was returned by the Dane; and the latter, having continued the contest for some time, struck her colours. The *Freya* and her convoy were then brought into the Downs, and a report was drawn up of the whole transaction. In order to prevent any hostile consequences from this affair, Lord Whitworth was delegated to the court of Denmark with a special mission; and to give more weight to his representations, he was supported by a squadron of nine sail of the line with bomb-ships and gun-boats, under the command of Vice-Admiral Dickson. On arriving at the Sound, four Danish ships of the line and a frigate were found moored across the narrowest part of it. After various manœuvres, but without any hostile action, the English fleet got into Copenhagen roads, and was prepared to bombard the city, when an amicable adjustment took place, August 29th. The terms of this convention were, that the captured Danish frigate and convoy were to be restored, with repairs, at the expence of Great Britain; that the discussion of the right of search should be adjourned to a future negotiation, but in the meantime the Danish ships should sail with convoy only in the Mediterranean, for protection against the Barbary cruizers, and should be liable to search as heretofore.

The Emperor Paul, who had now in various instances displayed the capriciousness and irrationality of his character, indulged a resentment against England on several accounts, of which the principal was the disappointment of his expectations of obtaining possession of Malta,

which he fancied due to him as the grand master of the order. Particular attentions had also been paid to him by the French government, and he had become an avowed admirer of the character of the first consul. As he was very open in his declarations, he had caused to be inserted in the Petersburg gazette of September 10th, 'as the motive for posting large bodies of troops on the coasts of the Baltic, that several political reasons induced the Emperor to think that a rupture of the friendship between Russia and England might ensue; and he published in the same paper, in the end of October, a declaration of his determination to revive the armed neutrality. Shortly after, he took the decisive step of laying an embargo on all the British ships in his ports, amounting to near 300, accompanied with the arbitrary measure of taking out their masters and crews, and sending them into confinement in remote places of the interior. He also sequestered all British property on shore, and put seals on all warehouses containing English goods. He announced that this embargo would not be taken off, till Malta should be given up to Russia, conformably, as he said, to the convention of December 1798.

The renewal of the confederacy named the armed maritime neutrality was now resolved upon by the northern powers, and preparations were made for supporting it by force of arms.

A negotiation respecting peace between England and France was carried on during some of the autumnal months of this year. In August it was notified to the French government by the minister of Austria, that the British ambassador at the court of Vienna had expressed a desire from his King of being included in a negotiation for peace between the Emperor and the French republic. In consequence, M. Otto, the French commissioner for prisoners in England, was authorized to demand an explanation of the proposals of the British Court, and to request that a truce might be concluded between the forces of the two nations by sea and land. The English ministry, declared their readiness to send a plenipoten-

tiary to any place that might be appointed, but objected to an armistice respecting naval operations. This topic became a subject of much discussion carried on between M. Otto and Lord Grenville, and various schemes were brought forward by each party, which were objected to by the other. At length, in October, it was signified by M. Otto that events having occurred which entirely changed the ground of the proposed truce, the negotiation was at an end; but that the first consul was ready to receive any overtures for a separate peace with Great Britain: this was, however, decidedly rejected by the English ministry.

The scarcity of grain in the kingdom still continuing, without a probability of its being removed by the product of the harvest, considerable alarm prevailed relative to its consequences, and the city of London, with other places, presented petitions to his Majesty in the month of October, requesting him speedily to convene the parliament that measures might be taken for relieving the distresses of the people. Accordingly, that assembly was convoked on November 11th, and was opened by a speech, the leading topic of which was the high price of provisions. The subject being immediately entered upon by parliament, a number of acts were passed, continuing those restrictions upon the consumption of grain, and encouragements of importation of provision, which had already been adopted, and adding many more to the same purpose. As the most solid foundation for all measures of internal policy, a motion was introduced by Mr. Abbot for a bill for ascertaining the population of Great Britain, which passed into a law.

The remaining business of this short session was the passing of the necessary supplies, for three months only, the continuation of the suspension of the *habeas corpus* (now regarded as a matter of course during the war), and the renewal of the alien and mutiny bills. In the King's speech which concluded the session, notice was taken of the hostile proceedings in Russia, concerning which it was said that the requisite steps had already been taken; and confidence was expressed of

the support of parliament should it become necessary to maintain against *any combination* the honour and maritime rights of the empire.

As the ensuing parliament was to be that of the three united kingdoms, a proclamation was read by the chancellor in the King's presence, declaring that the individuals now composing the expiring parliament, should be the members, on the part of Great Britain, of the new or *imperial* parliament, which should assemble on the 22d of January 1801. Thus the year and the century closed.

A conclave for the election of a new pope being held at Venice in the spring, under the auspices of the Elector of Germany, the Cardinal Chiaramonte, a native of Cesena, was chosen on March 11th, when he took the name of Pius VII. In July he was permitted to take possession of the see of Rome, with the greatest part of the territory annexed to it.

A. D. 1801.

YEAR OF GEORGE III.

41 & 42.

— THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT 5 & 6.

— THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT 1.

New Royal Title. — Definitive Treaty of Luneville. — Preparations in England against the Maritime Confederacy. — Measures of the Northern Powers. — Prussian Occupation of Hanover — British Fleet sent to the Baltic, and Nelson's Victory at Copenhagen. — Death of the Emperor Paul, and succession of Alexander. — Convention of Petersburgh between Russia and Great Britain, acceded to by the other Members of the Confederacy. — Expedition to Egypt under Sir R. Abercrombie. — Battle before Alexandria. — Cairo taken, and the French finally expelled from Egypt. — First Imperial Parliament opened. — Speech from the Throne. — The King's Return of Indisposition. — Dissolution of the Pitt Ministry, and Succession of that of Mr. Addington. — Measures for preserving the Public Peace in Great Britain and Ireland. — Indemnity Bill passed. — Act declaring the Ineligibility to Parliament of Persons in Holy Orders. — Preparations in France for Invasion, and in England for Defence. — Naval Actions. — Ineffectual Attacks on the Boulogne Flotilla. — War declared against Portugal by Spain. — Its Events and Conclusion, by which the Ports of Portugal were shut against British Ships. — Treaty between France and Portugal. — Madeira occupied by the English. — Preliminaries signed between Great Britain and France. — Autumnal Session of Parliament. — Mr Pitt's Declaration in favour of Peace. — Northern Convention discussed. — Lord Cornwallis sent Ambassador plenipotentiary to France. — French expedition to St. Domingo. — Mutiny of the fleet at Bantry Bay. — Mr. Jefferson elected President of the United States.

ON January 1st a proclamation was issued declaring the King's pleasure concerning the royal style and titles, and armorial ensigns, hereafter to be used as appertaining to the imperial crown of Great Britain and Ireland. The regal title was expressed, in Latin by the words "Georgius tertius, Dei gratia, Britanniarum Rex, Fidei defensor:" in English by those of "George the Third,

by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, defender of the Faith." Thus was judiciously relinquished the title of King of France, long a frivolous assumption, and now wholly unworthy of the real greatness of the British throne. In honour of the union with Ireland, many new titles were conferred on the nobility of that country, and several of them were created peers of the United Kingdom.

After the expiration of the second armistice between the French and Austrians in December, the campaign in Italy was renewed with great vigour by the French, who pushed the Austrians beyond the Adige, took Verona, Trent, and various other places, and were only withheld from farther advance by a new armistice signed at Treviso on January 16th. This was followed by the definitive treaty of peace between the two powers concluded at Luneville on the 9th of February. By its articles, the whole left bank of the Rhine, from the place where it leaves the Helvetic territory, to that where it enters the Batavian territory, was confirmed to France. The Emperor was left in possession of all the former Venetian territory ceded to him by the treaty of Campo Formio, the Adige being made its boundary. The independence of the Batavian, Helvetic, Cisalpine, and Ligurian republics was mutually guaranteed by the two powers, the Emperor ceding all the rights which he possessed before the war upon the two latter. The Duke of Tuscany renounced, for himself and his successors, the grand duchy of Tuscany and the part of the Isle of Elba dependent upon it, to the Duke of Parma, for which he was to receive a full indemnity in Germany.

Peace being thus restored on the European continent, the most important point in its political state remaining to be settled, related to that maritime confederacy of the northern powers, the direct object of which was to annul the marine code maintained by England, and by which she arrogated a kind of naval dominion. This confederacy, openly declared at the close of the last year, occupied the serious attention of the British mi-

nistry; and on January 14th an embargo was laid on all the ships in British ports belonging to any of the confederate powers, Prussia excepted, and letters of marque were issued for the capture of their vessels at sea. A note was at the same time delivered to the Danish and Swedish ambassadors, explaining the reason of this procedure, and endeavouring to bring back their courts to their former amicable relations; but in the answers returned, a resolution was expressed of persisting in their attempts to liberate neutral commerce, and they retaliated by an embargo on English shipping in their ports. With Prussia, a negotiation was for some time carried on by the British ministry with the hope of prevailing upon her to abandon a coalition, her adherence to which, it was foreseen, would endanger the King's German dominions; but it proved unsuccessful. On March 30th, the King of Prussia notified to the electoral college of Hanover his intention not only to shut the mouths of the Elbe, Weser, and Ems, but to take possession of the states belonging to the King of England in Germany, and demanded the disarming of the Hanoverian troops; with which requisition the regency of Hanover found it expedient to comply. The Prussian troops then entered the Hanoverian territory, and an embargo was laid upon the English shipping, but those which were laden with corn were suffered to depart. About the same time a body of Danish troops took possession of Hamburg, for the alleged purpose of stopping the British trade to that port.

The matter in dispute being now brought to the decision of arms, an English fleet of 18 ships of the line, 1 frigates, and a number of bomb-vessels and gun-boats, and having on board some regiments of marines and riflemen, was sent to the Baltic under the command of Admiral Parker and Vice-Admiral Nelson. Great preparations on the other hand were made to guard the passage of the Sound on both the Danish and Swedish side, and to protect all the approaches to Copenhagen. On March 30th, the British fleet passed that Strait with no considerable resistance, and anchored

near the Isle of Huen. The whole fleet of Denmark was thence seen stationed in the road of Copenhagen, and flanked by very powerful batteries, both on land and floating. An attack on this formidable force, committed, at his request, to Lord Nelson, took place, on April 2d, with 12 ships of the line, and all the frigates and smaller vessels of the fleet. The action, which was supported with the greatest courage on both sides; was very sanguinary. It was yet raging, when Nelson, perceiving his success certain, and regretting the loss of so many brave men, sent a proposal for a truce to the Prince Royal of Denmark, and landed, himself, to adjust the terms of conciliation. At this period the whole of the Danish line to the southward of the Crown Islands, consisting of 17 sail, were sunk, burnt, or taken. Three of the English ships of the line, which had grounded, were exposed to the fire of the Crown batteries, which circumstance, doubtless, quickened Nelson's efforts to put an end to the carnage. From his own account, the battle of Copenhagen was the most dreadful that he had ever witnessed.

The succeeding armistice was the termination of hostilities in the Baltic, for an event had already taken place which altered the whole state of affairs in the north. The Emperor Paul, whose actions had long denoted insanity, and who was become intolerable to his subjects, and dangerous to those about him, was hurled from his throne by the only mode of deposition practicable under a despotic monarchy; and on March 22d, it was announced that he was *found dead in his bed*. His son and successor Alexander immediately declared for the laws and political system of his august grandmother; and one of his first acts was to liberate, and bring back from their places of confinement, all the British mariners belonging to the sequestered ships. Negotiations were entered upon with the court of London, and on June 17th, a convention was signed at Petersburg, by Lord St. Helens and the Russian ministers, in which all disputes were adjusted. The two other northern powers acceded to the same terms

of agreement, by which were obtained a limitation and explicit definition of the right of search and the principle of blockade, and a reduction of articles considered as contraband of war, to those of real military or naval ammunition. The Danish troops evacuated Hamburg, the navigation of the German rivers was restored, and the court of Berlin engaged to evacuate Bremen and Hanover after certain arrangements had been made.

A powerful effort for the recovery of Egypt from the French having been determined on by the British ministry, an armament for that purpose was prepared in the latter part of the preceding year. Near the end of December, an army of between 17 and 18,000 men, under the command of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, arrived from Malta at Marmorice, on the coast of Caramania, where the troops were landed for refreshment. Being re-embarked, they arrived at the port of Aboukir on March 2d. The state of the weather prevented their landing till the 8th, when it was effected with great intrepidity in the face of a vigorous resistance, and not without considerable loss. Advancing against the French posted at some distance from Alexandria, a severe and indecisive action ensued on the 13th. Fort Aboukir capitulated on the 19th; and on the 20th, General Menou arriving from Cairo, the whole of the French disposable force was concentrated at Alexandria. Before day-light on the next morning he ordered an attack on the British army, which brought on a long and obstinate engagement, ending in a complete repulse of the French, who lost the greatest part of their famous corps named the Invincibles. The loss of the British was considerable, and was greatly aggravated by the mortal wound received by their excellent commander, who here terminated a long series of brilliant services. An auxiliary body of Turks afterwards arrived; and Rhamanieh being taken by General Hutchinson, who had succeeded to the command of the British, the French retreated to Cairo. The united army then advancing to that city, it capitulated on

June 27th, on the condition that all the French troops and others belonging to that nation should be conveyed with their arms, artillery, and effects, to the French ports in the Mediterranean. Just at this time a British force from India under General Baird, designed to co-operate with the armament from England, which had sailed up the Red Sea, appeared on the banks of the Nile, to the number of 5000 British, and 2000 Seapoys. Menou, in the meantime, who had remained at Alexandria, refusing to accept of the capitulation at Cairo, in which a place had been reserved for him, made additions to the fortifications. He continued his defence till August 27th, when he desired to capitulate, which was granted on the same conditions with those of Cairo. Thus terminated the splendid project of the French directory to render Egypt a French colony, and probably through its means, to make a commencement of an eastern empire.

During the progress of these military achievements, extraordinary and important changes had been taking place in the domestic affairs of Great Britain. The first imperial parliament was opened by commission on the 22d of January, when the House of Commons re-elected Mr. Addington for their speaker. The topics of the speech from the throne were chiefly the union with Ireland, the state of the continent, and the dispute with the northern associated powers relative to the maritime code. The motions in each house for the usual addresses afforded considerable scope to the opposition, for inculcation of the ministers; and amendments were moved of that tenor; but in the divisions, it did not appear that they had lost any part of their influence. Their situation, however, was embarrassing, from causes to be mentioned; and the difficulty was augmented by a return of his Majesty's indisposition, which, under the name of a fever, was announced on February 16th, and did not entirely give way till March 12th.

The last question discussed in the cabinet previously to the King's illness, was that of the extension of all

political privileges to the Roman Catholics of Ireland, which Mr. Pitt had given them every reason to expect, as a result of the union. Among the difficulties attending that measure, he probably did not foresee that of obtaining the consent of the King, who conceived it to be contrary to the obligation of his coronation oath. The objection proved insuperable, and left the minister in the painful and degraded state of being proved unable to redeem a pledge which he had given to a numerous body of subjects. This circumstance alone might perhaps have occasioned his resignation; but such a step was also forcibly inculcated by the situation of the country, which was now left to contend, without a single ally, against the whole power of France, whilst it was at the same time involved in a new quarrel for the maintenance of those maritime rights which were regarded as essential to its naval superiority. The tone of decided hostility which he and others in the administration had taken towards the existing government of France, would obviously render the task of making peace upon the only attainable conditions extremely galling, nor were they the most likely persons to succeed in an amicable negotiation. But however these considerations might operate, the sole reason assigned by Mr. Pitt for resigning the post he had so long held with the applause of a great part of the nation, was his inability to carry the proposed measure in favour of the Catholics; and in a paper circulated in his name throughout Ireland, which he did not disavow, he assured the Catholics "that he would do his utmost to establish their cause in the public favour, (though he could not concur in a hopeless attempt to force it now) and prepare the way for their finally attaining their object." The prime minister was accompanied in his resignation by Mr. Dundas, Earl Spencer, Lord Grenville, and Mr. Windham, all members of the cabinet; and other changes took place afterwards. The breaking up of a ministry at such a critical time naturally engaged the attention of parliament; and on February 10th, a motion by Lord

Darnley for an inquiry into part of the conduct of his Majesty's ministers was taken into consideration. Lord Grenville, on that occasion, stated the failure of their intentions in favour of the Catholics to have been their inducement to resign their places, which they now held only till their successors were appointed. At the earnest request of several peers, Lord Darnley postponed his motion. In the House of Commons, on the same day, a letter was read from Mr. Addington, tendering the resignation of his office of speaker, on account of his Majesty's declared intention of appointing him to a situation incompatible with that post. An election of a new speaker accordingly followed, in which the choice fell upon Sir John Mitford, the attorney-general.

Mr. Pitt thought it his duty, before laying down his office, to bring before the House of Commons the budget of expenditure and ways and means which he had prepared as Chancellor of the Exchequer. The sum stated as the amount of the necessary supplies was upwards of thirty-five millions and an half, for Great Britain and Ireland, to defray which, besides new taxes, a loan of twenty-five and an half millions was proposed. The resolutions upon the budget being agreed to with some alterations, the Chancellor of the Exchequer resigned his burthensome post.

The new Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Henry Addington, was placed at the head of the ministry rather through the personal favour of the King, acquired by his decorous manners and respectable character, than on account of any established political reputation. With him were joined Lords Hawkesbury and Hobart, as secretaries of state, Mr. Charles Yorke, secretary at war, Lord St. Vincent, first lord of the admiralty, Lord Eldon, lord chancellor, the Earl of Hardwick, lord lieutenant of Ireland. The first measures of the new ministry were directed to the securing of the internal tranquillity of the country. Ireland still continuing in a very disturbed state, motions were made for the renewal of the act for the suppression of rebellion in that

country, and that for the suspension of the habeas corpus act in Ireland; both of which, after considerable debates in both Houses, were carried. A select committee of the House of Commons having brought in a report concerning the existence and proceedings of societies of dissaffected persons in Great Britain, particularly of one in London entitled the United Britons, a continuation of the suspension of the habeas corpus, and a revival of the act for preventing seditious meetings, were moved and carried. A bill was also passed for indemnifying all persons concerned in the securing, imprisoning, and detaining individuals under the suspension of the habeas corpus act in Great Britain since February 1793, though strongly opposed in both Houses, as calculated to screen misconduct by an *ex-post-facto* law. A similar indemnifying bill was passed for Ireland, including all acts done for the preservation of the public peace, and suppression of insurrections and rebellions in that kingdom, since March 1799.

In this session an act passed "to remove doubts respecting the eligibility of persons in holy orders to sit in the House of Commons." Its occasion was the circumstance of Mr. Horne Tooke's having obtained a seat in that House. Earl Temple having made a motion for a new writ to be issued for the election of a burgess for Old Sarum in the room of Mr. Tooke, on the ground of his being in priest's orders, and therefore incapable of sitting in that house, Mr. Addington expressed his wish rather to have a bill passed declarative of the future ineligibility of clergymen to a seat in the House, than one annulling the past election of a member; and leave was accordingly given to bring in a bill to that purpose. It occasioned much learned and animated debate, but finally passed into a law, by which that constitutional doubt has been set at rest.

Various motions relative to the state of the nation, to the miscarriage of expeditions, and to other public occurrences, were made by the opposition, which were disposed of by the usual majorities in favour of ministers, and of which the persons belonging to the late ministry

constituted a part. Parliament was prorogued by commission on the 2d of July.

France being set free from her continental war by the treaty of Luneville, her arms and resources were now directed against her only remaining foe; and the invasion of Great Britain, or, at least, the propagation of such an alarm as might distract her councils and exhaust her finances, was a leading object of the policy pursued by the first consul during a great part of the present year. Encampments were formed and occupied by a number of chosen troops on the opposite coasts of France and Flanders; a large combined French and Spanish fleet was collected in the harbour of Brest; and every effort was made to restore the French navy, and equip in different ports a great number of vessels fitted for the purpose of landing men. On the other hand, these menaces were met by suitable preparations and a spirit fully answerable to the danger. A circular letter from the home secretary of state to the lords lieutenants of counties being issued in July, desiring that his Majesty's wish might be signified to the commanders of the bodies of volunteer cavalry and infantry, that their corps should be kept in a state for immediate service; and particularly recommending that they should frequently assemble for military exercise, the greatest alacrity was every where displayed in complying with the recommendation. The naval force of the empire, which surpassed that of any former period, was disposed in such a manner as to keep the closest watch on the movements of the enemy, and blockade all his principal ports.

Some naval actions occurred during this season with various success. Two English frigates and a man of war of 74 guns were captured by Gantheaume's squadron in his rambles about the Mediterranean, in which he eluded the vigilance of the British squadrons. On July 5th, the French squadron of Admiral Linois, consisting of two ships of 80 guns, one of 74, and some smaller vessels, lying at anchor off Algeziras, was attacked by Admiral Saumarez with five ships of the line,

when a severe engagement ensued, in which the French ships were assisted by batteries on shore. An English 74 gun ship getting on shore near a battery, was so much disabled by the enemy's fire, that she was obliged to strike her colours after the loss of a great number of her crew; and the whole attack failed, though not without much damage to the French squadron. This disappointment, however, was presently compensated. The same French ships being reinforced by five Spanish ships of the line, and one French ship of 74 guns, with the captured English ship, put to sea on July 12th, when they were followed by Admiral Saumarez, and brought to action in the evening of that day. The result was, that two Spanish ships of 112 guns each took fire and blew up, and another of 74 guns was taken.

In the English channel a petty war was maintained chiefly between cruizers and gun-boats, the latter being occasionally intercepted as they stole from one port to another on the French coast. An enterprize of greater magnitude was at length planned against the harbour of Boulogne, which was the principal rendezvous of the small craft intended for the invasion of England. Its execution was committed to Lord Nelson, who offered his services for the occasion; and a flotilla of gun-boats and other armed vessels, to be backed by some ships of the line, was placed under his direction. On August 1st, he stood over to the coast of France, and having fully reconnoitred the enemy's defences at Boulogne, he made his attack on the 4th. This was rather experimental than serious, and it chiefly served to shew in what manner a future attack might be conducted with the best prospect of success. On the night between the 15th and the 16th the attack was renewed with an augmented force, and against opponents still better prepared to receive it. The most desperate courage was displayed in the attempt to board and cut out the French vessels; but they were so well provided with every kind of defence, and so firmly fastened with mooring-chains to the ground and to each other, that only one lugger was brought off, while

several boats of the assailants were sunk or taken, with a considerable loss in killed and wounded. The attack was not repeated; and indeed there appears to have been more daring than judgment in the whole undertaking.

In this, as in former wars, it was an object of the enemies of Great Britain to break her ancient connection with Portugal, or to make a diversion of her force in the defence of that country. The French had attempted some years before to intimidate the Court of Lisbon into an agreement to separate itself from England, and as a pledge of its fidelity, to admit Spanish garrisons into the ports of Portugal; and Spain had offered its mediation between that country and France, which the influence of the British cabinet had induced the Portuguese to decline. The Court of Madrid, in resentment for this refusal, and stimulated by the French, declared war against Portugal in the month of March, which produced a counter-declaration from the Portuguese government in the following month, accompanied with preparations for defence. In May, a Spanish army of 40,000 men, commanded by the person entitled the Prince of the Peace, entered Portugal, and in a short time reduced all the strong places in the province of Alentejo. Scarcely any resistance was made, and there is reason to suppose that there was a secret understanding between the two courts. On June 6th preliminaries of peace were signed at Badajoz, by which the fortress and district of Olivenza were ceded to Spain, and the ports of Portugal were shut against the English. The French government refused to concur in this treaty, as being contrary to a convention between it and that of Spain, a condition of which was, that peace should not be made with Portugal unless certain places in that country were given to be occupied by French troops till a general peace; and a French army having entered Portugal from Salamanca, invested the town and fort of Almeida. The exertions of the Portuguese in their defence were animated by an English subsidy; but at length they found it necessary to negotiate, and

a definitive treaty was concluded at Madrid on September 29th, by which all the territory of Portugal was preserved, but some extension was given to French Guiana out of its American possessions. During this contest an expedition was sent from England to take possession of the Island of Madeira in order to secure it for the crown of Portugal.

The war between Great Britain and France being without an adequate object, each country seeming to stand firm on its own base, without the power of effecting any material alteration in the condition of the other, the negotiation which had been long secretly carrying on between M. Otto, who still resided in London, and Lord Hawkesbury, terminated in the signature of preliminaries of peace on October 1st. The intelligence of this event was received with extraordinary marks of joy by the people in both countries, who hoped to be relieved from the accumulating burdens under which they had so long laboured; and a spirit of mutual amity between two nations, which, though habitually political foes, have always retained much private respect for each other, seemed at once to be restored. This pacification was soon followed by treaties between France and the Ottoman Porte; and France and Russia. A concordat was also entered into between the French republic and the Pope, the substance of which was not made public in France till the following year.

The autumnal session of parliament was opened on October 29th, by a speech from the throne, in which were announced the convention with the northern powers, and the signature of preliminaries with France, and satisfaction was expressed with the naval and military successes of the campaign, particularly with the issue of the expedition to Egypt. The corresponding addresses passed without a division, though different sentiments were expressed with respect to the peace with France. These appeared in all their force when the preliminaries came under the particular consideration of both Houses, as their substance will be comprized in the mention of the definitive treaty.

concluded in the subsequent year, the debates on this occasion will be passed over. It may, however, be remarked, that whilst the greatest satisfaction was expressed with the preliminaries by Mr. Fox and the other oppositionists, they were loudly condemned by the members of the late ministry, with the exception of Mr. Pitt, from whose speech, as that of him who had been the great conductor and supporter of the war, it may be interesting to give an extract. He said "After the continental alliance had been dissolved, nothing remained for us but to procure just and honourable conditions of peace for ourselves and the few allies who had not deserted us. When it became a mere question of terms, he was much more anxious as to the tone and character of the peace, than about any particular object which should come into dispute. As long as the peace was honourable, he should prefer accepting terms even short of what he thought the country entitled to, to risking the result of the negotiation by too obstinate an adherence to any particular point." Such was the opinion relative to the necessity of peace, of a statesman who will scarcely be accused of too great a reluctance to warlike politics.

When the northern convention came under the consideration of parliament, the same difference of parties displayed itself, the ministers and the old opposition joining in its defence, while the late ministers and their friends endeavoured to shew that it either left unsettled, or abandoned, points of great importance relative to the maritime rights of the country. One of the most plausible objections was, that in the enumeration of articles contraband of war, naval stores, which Russia in particular might be expected to supply to the southern powers, had not been mentioned. In answer, it was said that naval stores having by former treaties with the northern states been recognized as contraband of war, the matter stood on its ancient footing. The general result of these discussions was an approval both of the preliminaries and the convention by the majority in parliament.

In the beginning of November, the Marquis Corn-

wallis arrived in France as ambassador-plenipotentiary for the purpose of negotiating the definitive peace between the belligerent parties. He was received with the greatest honours, and after a short stay at Paris, repaired to Amiens, the place appointed for holding the conference. The business underwent much unexpected delay; and in the meantime the French government was assiduous in pursuing its projects. The most pressing of these was the recovery of their colonies of St. Domingo and Guadeloupe from the armed negroes by whom they were at present held. For this purpose a powerful armament of 23 ships of the line, and 25,000 land forces, sailed from Brest on December 14th, permission having been first obtained from the English ministry, who were assured that it had no other object than that above stated. The ministers, however, considering that it would be prudent to watch their motions, as peace was not absolutely concluded, collected a fleet under Admiral Mitchell at Bantry Bay, to follow them to the West Indies. When the crews of these ships understood whither they were destined, a mutiny spread among them, especially on board of two of the ships, which was quelled by the decided conduct of the officers, and fourteen of the ringleaders were capitally condemned and executed. The squadron, consisting of seven sail of the line, then proceeded to reinforce the fleets on the West-India station.

In the beginning of this year Mr. Jefferson was elected President of the United States of America.

A. D. 1802,

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 42 & 43.
 ——— PARLIAMENT 6 & 1.

Articles of the Treaty of Amiens — Buonaparte declared President of the Cisalpine Republic. — Annexations of France. — Parliament. — Mr. Abbott elected Speaker. — Civil List Debts provided for. — Claim of the Prince of Wales on the Revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall Debates on the Subject. — The Budget — Debates on the Conditions of Peace — New Militia Bill — Parliament dissolved. — Proceedings of the French at St Domingo — Fate of Toussaint — Guadeloupe reduced, and the Slave Trade re established. — Tunawed by a French Fleet — Concordat between France and the Pope. — Decree of Amnesty to Emigrants — Buonaparte declared Consul for Life, with Liberty to nominate a Successor. — Disturbances in Switzerland — Interference of the French — Legion of Honour instituted in France — New Constitution. — Piedmont annexed to France — German Indemnities settled. — Osnaburg united to Hanover — The Property of the Knights of Malta in Spain annexed to the Royal Domains — Insurrections of the Blacks in the West Indies. — Meeting of the new Parliament. — King's Speech. — Indications of a Renewal of Hostilities — Despard's Conspiracy against the Government.

THE definitive treaty of peace between the French republic, the King of Spain, and the Batavian republic, on the one part, and the King of Great Britain and Ireland, on the other, was signed at Amiens on the 27th of March. By its conditions, Great Britain restored to the three powers all its conquests during the war, with the exception of the Islands of Trinidad and Ceylon, which were respectively ceded to it in full property by Spain and Batavia. All the territories of the Queen of Portugal were secured to her as before the war, except that a new limit was drawn between French and Portuguese Guiana. The territories of the Sublime

Porte were maintained in their integrity. The republic of the Seven Islands was recognized. Malta and its dependent islands were restored to the order of St. John of Jerusalem, under the following conditions: the knights to be invited to return to Malta and there elect a grand master; no individual belonging to England or France to be admitted into the order; a Maltese *langue* to be established, for admission into which proofs of nobility shall not be requisite; half of the civil and judicial employments depending on the government, to be filled by inhabitants of the islands; the British troops to evacuate Malta within three months or sooner from the exchange of the ratifications, when it is to be given up to the order, provided the 2000 Sicilian troops be arrived to garrison it, which the King of Naples is to be invited to send, and which troops are to continue for a year, or longer, if the Maltese be not competent at that period to garrison it themselves; the independence and neutrality of Malta to be proclaimed, and the former to be guaranteed by Great Britain, France, Austria, Spain, Russia, and Prussia, the four latter powers being invited to accede to the stipulations; the ports to be open to the vessels of all nations, excepting those of the Barbary powers. The French agreed to evacuate Naples and the Roman States; and the British, Porto Ferrajo and all the ports and islands possessed by them in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic. The Newfoundland fisheries were placed on the same footing as previously to the war. The loss of property of the branch of the house of Nassau formerly established in the United Provinces was to be compensated by an equivalent. Such were the leading and peculiar articles of the peace of Amiens.

Before the signature of this treaty, the French government had put in execution their second project, which related to the Cisalpine republic. Early in January, Buonaparte went to Lyons, where he was received in great state, and held a *consulta* with the Cisalpine deputies. A report was drawn up by a com-

mittee of these persons, the tenor of which was to prove the necessity of committing the sole management of their affairs to the first consul. Accordingly he was requested to accept the office of president of the republic, with which he did not hesitate to comply; and the articles of a constitution for the state were read over and approved. One of the observations contained in the report of the committee was that "the Cisalpine republic cannot yet be entirely evacuated by French troops, many political reasons not permitting it." The result of the whole proceeding was that this independent republic became an appendage to France, or rather, to the power of Buonaparte. Further annexations to France which were made known before the definitive treaty, were those of Louisiana, and of the isle of Elba and the duchy of Parma, all of which were stipulated in a private treaty with the court of Spain.

Parliament having, after several adjournments, assembled on January 19th, the ministers were questioned in each house respecting the sailing of the Brest fleet, when they defended the permission they had given, by the assurance received from the French government that nothing hostile was intended on its part, and by the precautions they had adopted against any possible ill consequence.

The Speaker of the House of Commons having vacated his chair by accepting the office of lord chancellor of Ireland, a new election took place on February 10th, when the choice fell upon the Honourable Charles Abbot, secretary to the lord-lieutenant of Ireland.

A motion was made on February 17th by the chancellor of the exchequer for a select committee to examine into the arrears of the civil list, respecting which a message had been received from the King; on which occasion Mr. Sutton, solicitor-general to the Prince of Wales, called the attention of the house to the arrears due to his Royal Highness from the revenue of the duchy of Cornwall, which he stated to be his undoubted

and inalienable right. After some conversation on the subject, it was agreed that a committee should be appointed to take this claim into consideration. On March 29th the subject of the debt on the civil list being brought before both Houses, an address to his Majesty was moved in each, expressing their readiness to afford the relief desired by the message. Debates ensued, in which amendments were proposed, signifying an intention to enquire into the causes of the debt, and of the great excess of the expenditure above the allowed income, but these were negatived by large majorities. A sum was then voted for making good the deficiencies, amounting to near a million. Two days after, Mr. Sutton introduced his promised motion concerning the claim of the Prince of Wales upon the revenue of the duchy of Cornwall; and after having given a historical statement of the manner in which this duchy had been vested in the Prince of Wales, and the mode in which former Princes had enjoyed it, he moved for a select committee to enquire into the application of the revenues of Cornwall during the minority of his Royal Highness; as also respecting the several sums which have been voted by parliament for the discharge of the Prince's debts. When this question had been first moved, Mr. Sutton had stated that during the minority of the Prince of Wales the arrears of the duchy amounted to 900,000*l.* and that 221,000*l.* having at different times been voted by parliament for his Royal Highness, there remained a balance in his favour of 679,000*l.* To bring him in, therefore, a creditor for such a sum upon the King or the public, was so eligible a mode of liberating him from pecuniary embarrassments, that his friends were naturally zealous in establishing his claim. The chancellor of the exchequer, in reply to some strong assertions of the Prince's right in this case, observed, that were it admitted in its fullest extent, it by no means followed that the expences of his maintenance and education during his minority should not be defrayed out of that fund, but should be entirely borne by the civil list. But his chief objection to the motion was that its object was

first to decide the legal right, which he thought that House was not competent to do, and afterwards to order an account. He should therefore move the order of the day. Mr. Fox, on the other hand, maintained the opinion, that the Prince of Wales had a right to be maintained and educated by his father as heir apparent to the crown, and that the same full account ought to be given of the revenues of Cornwall, as had been done of those of the bishopric of Osnaburg, when the Duke of York came of age. After much discussion of the subject by the law officers of the crown on one side, and the friends of the Prince on the other, the order of the day was carried by 160 to 103, leaving a majority of 57 against entering into the Prince's claims.

The budget for the year was brought forward by the minister on April 5th, when he announced his intention of abolishing the income tax, and funding the sum with which it was charged, amounting to nearly fifty-six millions and a half. The total sum to be funded was nearly ninety-eight millions, the interest of which amounted to 3,211,202*l.* to be provided for by new taxes. A loan of 25 millions was also a part of the budget. The national debt was stated at 500 millions. The resolutions upon the budget were agreed to without a division.

On May 18th the long expected debate respecting the definitive treaty of peace took place in both Houses. In the House of Lords it was opened by Lord Grenville. He began his objections to the treaty by observing, that in all negotiations for peace the basis had been the *status ante bellum*, or the *uti possidetis*, but in the present, these had been blended in such a manner that the first principle was applied to England, who was to give up to France all she had taken, and the latter to France, who was to retain all she had acquired. With respect to Malta, he said nothing could be more absurd than placing it under the guaranty of six powers who could never be brought to agree in any one point concerning it, and as to restoring it to the order, that was an additional absurdity, since almost all the funds ne-

cessary for its support had been confiscated. The order was in fact extinct as a power, and must necessarily come under the influence and into the pay of France. His Lordship then adverted to the non-renewal of several former treaties, by which the state of the country was rendered worse than before in a commercial view; and he considered all the cessions we had made to other powers as really made to France, whose object was to exclude the commerce of this country from the continent of Europe. He concluded a long and luminous speech, in which the peace was considered in every point of view, by moving an address which, while it acknowledged that the national faith was pledged to the observance of the treaty, pointed out the danger this country was exposed to, in consequence of the sacrifices it had made without any adequate compensation from France, and besought his Majesty to settle by amicable arrangement those points which the treaty had left unsettled.

As nothing further is here intended than to give a sketch of such objections made to the peace as appear most forcible, and were most justified in the event, the debate, which embraced similar topics in both Houses, will not be further pursued than to mention its result. It may, however, be remarked, that some of the ministers confessed that the assumption by Buonaparte of the presidentship of the Cisalpine state would have authorised the breaking off of the negotiation, had such a measure been thought advisable. It was moreover not to be denied, that the condition in which Malta had been left was obviously an unsound part of the treaty, since no adequate provision was made for securing its independence, and preventing its eventually falling into the hands of the predominant power. Such, however, was the general impression of the necessity of peace to this country, and the impossibility of its obtaining better terms by a protracted contest, that the motion of Lord Grenville was negatived by 122 votes to 16. In the House of Commons, where a similar address was moved

by Mr. Windham, and enforced by all his powers of argument and eloquence, it was rejected by a still greater proportionate majority, the numbers being 276 to 20.

Of the remaining public business of the session, the passing of a new militia act was the most important. Its object was to consolidate the existing militia laws into one system, and to augment the number of men to 70,000, of which 10,000 were to belong to Scotland. The augmentation was defended, as bearing a proportion to the increased population of the country, not without a reference to the vast increase of the power of France, which, notwithstanding the peace, was obviously becoming a source of alarm. The bill met with little opposition.

Parliament was prorogued on June 28th, and shortly after was dissolved by proclamation.

The armament sent out by the French to St. Domingo arrived off that island in the end of January, and the first debarkation of troops was made on February 3d. In the meantime, part of the fleet entered the road of Fort Dauphin, of which it took possession. The grand army under General Leclerc, brother-in-law of Buonaparte, afterwards landing, proceeded against the town of Cape Francois, which was evacuated, after being set on fire, by the negro General Christophe. In a short time all the principal posts in the island came into the possession of the French, who then advanced up the country against Toussaint. Various actions were fought against him and the other black generals, in which both courage and skill were displayed by the defenders; but at length, resistance becoming hopeless, Toussaint submitted on promise of pardon. This promise was violated on a pretext of conspiracy, and he was sent to France, where he was committed to a prison in the interior; and being never more heard of, an opinion generally prevailed that he was privately put to death by the order of the first consul. This treatment of their leader so much exasperated the negroes at St. Domingo, that observing the French army greatly weakened by the ra-

vages of the yellow fever, they broke out again into insurrection under Christophe and their other chiefs, and a war ensued, in which atrocities were perpetrated on both sides, not surpassed by the most sanguinary barbarians. The year terminated without bringing the fate of the island to a decision,

In Guadeloupe where, at the close of 1801, the mulattoes and negroes, irritated at the tyranny of the French government, had risen in revolt, and obtained the chief authority, under a leader named Pelagie, the troops sent for their reduction landed at the beginning of May. The resistance made to them was not considerable; and in July the whole island was recovered, and nothing remained but (according to the expression of the French general) to pursue and *exterminate* the remnant of the rebels. This event was followed by the re-establishment of slavery and the slave trade throughout the French West Indies.

Soon after the signature of the peace of Amiens, the Dey of Tunis, who had been in a state of hostility with France, was induced by the appearance of a French squadron, to enter into a treaty by which, for the future, France was to be the most favoured nation throughout the regency of Tunis, and was to pay less duties than any other.

In April the concordat between the see of Rome and the French republic was published at Paris. Its principal articles were the establishment of a free exercise of the Roman-catholic religion in France: a new division of the French dioceses by the Pope, in concert with the French government; the first consul to nominate to the archbishoprics and bishoprics of the new division, and the prelates, before entering on their functions, to take an oath of fidelity to the French republic; the bishops to appoint the curés, but under confirmation of the government; the Pope in no manner to disturb the possessors of alienated ecclesiastical effects; catholics permitted to make endowments to churches. Articles were at the same time drawn up for the regulation of the protestant worship in France. Previously to the

publication of this code of religion, the ~~papal~~ ^{papal} legate, Cardinal Caprara, had a formal audience of the first consul, to whom he delivered a highly complimentary address, in which was the following passage: "The same hand which gained battles, and which signed peace with all nations, restores splendour to the temples of the true God, re-edifies his altars, and re-establishes his worship." Thus, to the civil and military honours of this fortunate adventurer, was added that of being a hero and champion of the christian church.

In the same month, a decree of amnesty was published respecting emigrants, comprising every individual (but with considerable exceptions) who should return to France before the 23d of September next. They were bound to take an oath of fidelity to the government, and another against holding any correspondence with enemies of the state, and were placed under special inspection during ten years. They were not entitled to interfere with the arrangements of property entered into between the republic and individuals previously to the amnesty; but were restored to such part of their goods as still remained in the hands of the nation, without, however, any proceeds down to the date of their certificate of amnesty. Buonaparte had now entered a career of greatness which to one of his ambitious mind would not admit of a pause; and a wish having been expressed in the conservative senate of advancing him a degree higher, the question was proposed to the French people, "Shall Napoleon Buonaparte be declared consul for life?" Registers being opened in each commune, in which the citizens were to sign their assent or dissent, a return was made of more than three millions and a half affirmative, to 374 negative. A second question, "Whether he should have liberty to appoint a successor?" was not entrusted to the decision of the people, but was determined affirmatively by the senate; thus the name only was wanting to render him a monarch with hereditary right.

Whilst the rest of Europe was enjoying the tranquillity consequent upon the general peace, Switzerland

became the theatre of internal commotions, which renewed some of those sanguinary scenes that had spread desolation through its peaceful vallies. The treaty of Luneville contained an article guaranteeing the independence of the Helvetic and of other republics, with the right of the people inhabiting them to adopt what form of government they chose. As the new constitution of that country had been found productive of many disorders, and was insuperably repugnant to the smaller cantons, a general diet was held at Bern in September 1801, at which a new government was organized upon the plan of the original Helvetic confederacy, and a provisional senate and executive council were appointed, at the head of the latter of which was placed the celebrated Aloys Reding. At the same time the magistrates who had been displaced by the French directory resumed their seats. Dissensions still prevailing, Reding went to Paris to confer with the first consul, and a kind of coalition of parties was agreed upon, effected by the re-admission of six members of the revolutionary or French party, in the room of six of the old magistrates who were to go out. After some months, these members, in the absence of Reding, assembling in the night of April 17th, displaced all the other party, tore the plan of a constitution which they had been framing, and appointed a committee to form a new one; for all which they were thanked by the French minister in Switzerland. The new constitution was accepted by a majority in the aristocratical cantons, chiefly through the expectation that it would be followed by the removal of the French troops which still continued in Switzerland; which circumstance accordingly took place in July. The democratic cantons, however, resolving to exert the privilege of choosing a constitution for themselves, renewed the ancient confederacy of the Waldstaeten; and upon a declaration by the Helvetic body that such a secession would not be permitted, they made preparations for defending themselves by force of arms. The spirit of resistance to the new constitution spread,

and even Zurich, in which it had been accepted by a majority, shut its gates against a detachment of the Helvetic troops, for which it underwent a bombardment. The insurgents under D'Erlach and other commanders then marched to Bern, and after a bloody battle beneath its walls, the Helvetic troops within agreed to a capitulation, and retreated to the Pays de Vaud. In fine, by the 20th of September, all the German part of Switzerland was withdrawn from the Helvetic government. A diet was then convoked at Schweitz, of which Reding was declared president.

An application from the Helvetic government to France for its mediation, having afforded Buonaparte a plausible pretext to interfere, he sent an army into Switzerland, preceded by an arrogant proclamation, in which he announced his intention of putting an end to their disputes by an effectual interposition, and commanded the senate to assemble at Bern, and to send deputies to Paris, all authorities constituted since the commencement of the troubles to cease to act, and all armed bodies to disperse. The diet of Schweitz, however, resolved to remain at their post till the arrival of the French troops, though not meaning to resist them. One reason for this resolution was the desire of waiting the effect of applications made to foreign powers for their interference in behalf of Swiss independence; but none of these, except the court of Great Britain, paid any attention to them. Lord Hawkesbury, in a note to M. Otto, October 10th, expressed his Majesty's regret at the first consul's address to the Helvetic people, since he could view their exertions in no other light than as lawful efforts to recover their ancient laws and government. An English resident was also sent to Switzerland with directions, if he should find a determination in the people to resist the entrance of a French army, to promise pecuniary assistance. The diet, however, found it expedient to dissolve itself on the approach of the French; Aloys Reding and other patriots were arrested and committed to confinement

in the castle of Arburg ; and at the close of the year Switzerland was entirely under the power of France.

In the meantime the French government was more and more assuming the characters of monarchy. One step was the institution of a kind of nobility under the title of the *legion of honour*, the members of which were to be nominated from the military men who had received honorary distinctions from the first consul, or who had rendered essential service in the late war, and from all citizens who had distinguished themselves by their knowledge or talents, or their eminence in the administration of justice. The legion was to be divided into fifteen cohorts, stationary in different parts of the empire, each cohort to consist of officers of different ranks, and privates, all for life, and all with proportionate salaries ; every individual to take an oath to the republic and its territorial indivisibility. The first consul was declared *de jure* chief of the legion, and president of the great council of administration of the order. The decree for establishing the legion of honour was published on July 12th ; and it was followed by the promulgation of a *senatus-consultum*, organizing a constitution, which was accepted at a single sitting by the legislative body. The powers committed to the first consul by this act were those of presenting the names of the other two consuls to the senate ; of naming his successor ; of pardoning in all cases ; of making peace and war, and ratifying all treaties ; of nominating all inferior officers ; of appointing by his own pleasure 40 members of the senate, the whole number of which was 120, and prescribing to them the only subjects on which they can deliberate.

In September, Piedmont, which for a considerable time had been in effect a dependency of France, was by a *senatus-consultum* formally annexed to the French empire. It was divided into six departments, and Turin was constituted one of the provincial cities of the French republic.

Discussions respecting the German indemnities, or

that adjustment among the different princes and states of Germany, of the sacrifices the empire was obliged to make in consequence of the treaty of Luneville, occupied several months of the year; under the mediation of France and Russia, "the two perfectly disinterested powers" (says the French minister in his report) "whose preponderance might remove all obstacles." Their plan was adopted in a definitive conclusum of the diet of Ratisbon on October 21st. Of the numerous particulars of which it consisted, an account is not here to be expected; but one article relating to the King of Great Britain, as Elector of Hanover, may properly be noticed. It was proposed that the bishopric of Osnaburg, which then belonged only alternately to the House of Brunswick, should devolve on the Elector of Hanover in perpetuity, on the conditions that he should renounce all his pretensions to Hildesheim, Corvey, and Hoexter, that he should give up to Hamburg and Bremen all the rights and properties held by him in those cities and their territory, and should cede the bailiwick of Wildhausen to the Duke of Oldenburg, and his rights to the eventual succession of the county of Sayn Altenkirchen to the Prince of Nassau Usingen. In consequence, the King signified to the authorities and people of Osnaburg the secularization of that bishopric, and its assignment to him and to his house as an hereditary principality.

In the month of October the King of Spain annexed to the royal domains all the property of the knights of Malta in his dominions, and declared himself grand-master of the order in Spain. This step, which created a new obstacle to the execution of the treaty of Amiens, was supposed to have been taken at the suggestion of the French government.

The success which in late years had attended the attempts of the blacks in St. Domingo to free themselves from servitude and take the place of their masters, infused a general spirit of resistance in that oppressed race of people through the West India islands, where

they constitute so great a proportion of the population, which broke out in insurrection at some of the islands, and excited alarm in all. In the beginning of the year a dangerous conspiracy was formed at Tobago of almost the whole negro population, to resist which, the commander, Brigadier-General Carmichael, had no more than 200 men in arms. These, however, he employed with such effect, that the rebellion was entirely quelled before the restoration of the island to the French in pursuance of the articles of peace.

In Dominica an insurrection took a more dangerous form, as it broke out in a regiment of regularly trained black troops. These men, on April 9th, without any particular provocation, suddenly burst into mutiny, and murdered several of their officers, with every other white who fell in their way. The governor, the Honourable Cochrane Johnstone, collecting all the force in the island, with some seamen and marines from the men of war in the bay, attacked the insurgents, who soon fled, leaving a number of killed on the spot, and many prisoners. This check, and the execution of the ringleaders, put an end to the mutiny. The circumstance, however, augmented the dislike of arming the negroes which already prevailed in the islands. In Jamaica a regiment of that description was removed in consequence of the representations of the inhabitants, at the same time that the presence of so large a French force in St. Domingo required a war-establishment in that important island. On this account, besides the large fleet on the Jamaica station, the governor proposed to the House of Assembly that it should support an effective force of 5000 men. This was strongly objected to by the Assembly as inequitable and unconstitutional, and some disputes between them and the governor were the result.

The new parliament assembled on November 16th, when Mr. Abbot was unanimously re-elected Speaker of the House of Commons. The speech from the throne

commenced with congratulations on the flourishing state of the kingdom. In alluding to the intercourse with foreign powers, his Majesty said, that although actuated by a sincere desire for peace, it was impossible for him to lose sight of ~~that~~ wise system of policy by which the interests of other states are connected with those of our own, whence he could not be indifferent to any material change in their relative strength. It was manifest to what changes these observations pointed; and the recommendation of adopting the means of security best calculated to preserve the blessings of peace, farther implied no obscure presage of a renewal of war. Such was the view of the speech taken by the members in both houses who spoke on the motion for the usual address; and although the ministers, in defending the peace which they had made from the attacks upon it, were not willing to admit that there was a present necessity for recurring to arms, yet the general impression favoured such a conclusion. The indication was still more apparent when resolutions were moved for augmentations of the army and navy, which, though voted with general concurrence, brought down much severe censure on the ministers, and strong intimations that they were regarded by the nation as unfit for the helm at such a critical period. The remaining part of the session was occupied by the supplies, and ways and means, and by the discussions on a bill introduced to the House of Lords by Lord Pelham for appointing commissioners to enquire into frauds and abuses prevalent in the several naval departments, and for the better conducting the business of those departments, which passed into a law.

In November a conspiracy against the King and government was discovered, at the head of which was Colonel Marcus Despard, who had distinguished himself as a brave soldier in the service of his country. This person had engaged some soldiers and others of the lowest class in a society professed to be for the extension of liberty, to whom he had proposed projects of

a treasonable nature; but nothing could be more wild and inadequate than the means by which they were to be put in execution. The colonel and several of his accomplices were tried for high treason in the following February, and found guilty; and he, with six other persons, underwent the sentence of the law,

A. D. 1803.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 43 & 44.
 ————— PARLIAMENT 1 & 2.

Continuation of Bank-payment Restriction. — Measure for relieving the pecuniary Embarrassments of the Prince of Wales. — King's Message to Parliament for Preparation against Hostilities. — Militia called out. — Ambassadors of France and England recalled. — Complaints on both Sides. — Reprisals granted against the French Shippings, and an Embargo laid on French and Dutch Ships. — Parliamentary Proceedings on the Subject of War. — English Minister recalled from the Hague. — Bill for an Army of Reserve. — Property Tax voted. — Grant to the Prince of Orange. — Insurrection at Dublin, and Murder of Lord Kilwarden. — English in France made Prisoners of War. — Operations of the French in Italy and Hanover. — Preparations for the Invasion of England. — Volunteer Associations renewed. — British Successes in the West Indies. — French expelled from St. Domingo. — War in India against the Mahratta Chiefs. — Its Successes and favourable Termination. — Louisiana sold by the French to the United States. — Parliament re-assembled. — Speech, and Acts passed.

ONE of the first measures of government on the meeting of parliament after the Christmas recess was to introduce a bill for prolonging the restriction of the bank from payments in specie. It experienced considerable opposition, especially in the House of Lords, but finally passed into a law. There will be no necessity for taking notice of the farther renewals of this restriction, since it may be mentioned at once that it continued during the whole period to which these annals extend.

A message having been received from his Majesty recommending the embarrassed state of the Prince of Wales to the attention of parliament, it was brought before the consideration of the House of Commons by

Mr. Addington, who moved a proposition for granting to his Royal Highness out of the consolidated fund the annual sum of 60,000*l.* for three years and a half, commencing from the beginning of the present year. In the discussion of this subject, that of the Prince's legal claims on the revenue of Cornwall was reverted to by several of his particular friends, and attempts were made to give this grant the colour of a compromise, which it was denied to be by the minister. During the progress of the business, the Prince having sent a message to the House of Commons in which, after expressing his gratitude for the intended liberality of parliament, he said, there were claims upon him in honour and justice for the discharge of which he must still set apart a considerable sinking fund, Mr. Calcraft, without any communication with his Royal Highness, signified his intention of making a motion to enable the Prince immediately to resume his state and dignity. This was accordingly introduced on March 4th, when after a warm debate, the motion was negatived by 181 to 139. The original proposition passed both Houses, without opposition.

On March 8th, a message was brought to parliament from the King, which was regarded as the immediate prelude to a new war. It communicated the information, that considerable military preparations were carrying on in the ports of France and Holland; and although they were professedly directed to colonial service, yet, as discussions of great importance were now subsisting between his Majesty and the French government, the result of which was uncertain, it was thought expedient to adopt additional measures for the security of these kingdoms. A corresponding address was unanimously voted, and a resolution afterwards passed for the addition of 10,000 seamen. Another message acquainted parliament with the King's intention to call out the militia. Some succeeding weeks passed in a state of awful suspense, during which parliament had adjourned for the Easter recess. After its re-assembling, a communication was made to each

House on May 6th, that his Majesty had given orders to Lord Whitworth, his ambassador in France, that if he could not, against a certain period, bring the negotiations now pending to a close, he should immediately quit Paris; and that General Andreossi, the French ambassador, had applied for a passport to return in case of such an event. An adjournment having been voted in consequence, all remaining doubts were terminated, by a message from his Majesty on May 16th, announcing the recal of the English and the departure of the French ambassador. From the papers subsequently laid before parliament, it appears that a correspondence had been long maintained between the ministers of France and Great Britain, relative to various subjects of difference and complaint, which on the part of France were chiefly the delay in evacuating Malta and Alexandria by the English troops, the shelter and encouragement given in England to enemies of the French government, and the rancorous abuse of the first consul in the English newspapers. These were dwelt upon with great warmth in a remarkable conversation held between Buonaparte and Lord Whitworth in February, the relation of which forms one of the most curious of the communicated papers.

On the part of Great Britain, the subjects of complaint were stated at length in a declaration issued by the King on May 18th. It begins with contrasting the liberal and friendly conduct displayed towards the subjects of France, immediately after the peace of Amiens, in respect to matters of law and commerce, with the severity and injustice practised towards the English; connected with which is mentioned the circumstance of persons being sent from France to reside in the British and Irish sea-ports in the character of consuls, when no commercial treaty existed, and whose conduct gave reason to suspect purposes of a dangerous kind. The manifestations of an encroaching and grasping spirit by the French government since the peace are next adverted to, of which, examples were given by keeping up a French army in Holland contrary to

the remonstrances of the Batavian government, by the violation of the independence of Switzerland, and by the annexations to France of Piedmont, Parma, and Placentia, and the isle of Elba. Notice is then taken of the principle advanced by the French government, that Great Britain had no right to interfere with the proceedings of France in any point which did not form a part of the stipulations in the treaty of Amiens; and arguments are adduced to prove the incompatibility of such a principle with the spirit of treaties in general, and the national law of Europe. The particular circumstances under which the island and order of Malta had lain since the peace are next entered into at length; and it is contended, that the conduct of the governments of France and Spain in destroying the independence of the order, has been the cause of the non-execution of that article in the treaty which stipulates the evacuation of Malta by the British; not to add, that the indications since given by the French government of a design to violate those articles which stipulate for the integrity and independence of the Turkish empire and of the Ionian isles, would of themselves justify the retention of Malta, without some other security against its projects. Some indignities offered to this country by the first consul and his ministers are then mentioned, one of which was the affirmation of the former in an address to the legislative body, "That Great Britain cannot singly contend with the power of France;" an assertion regarded as an insult and defiance, and contradicted by the event of many wars. The paper concludes with declaring, that notwithstanding all the changes which have taken place since the peace, and the extension of the power of France in repugnance to the spirit of the treaty, his Majesty is ready to concur, even now, in an arrangement by which satisfaction shall be given to him for the indignities offered to his crown and people, and security against further encroachments on the part of France.

An order of council was published on the 17th, di-

recting that reprisals be granted against the ships, goods, and subjects of the French republic; and a proclamation was issued for an embargo on all ships in the British ports belonging to the French and Batavian republics, or to any countries occupied by the French arms.

The important topic of the renewal of war, and of the conduct of the ministers during the whole negotiation, was brought before both Houses of parliament on May 23d, by motions for an address to the King in answer to the message. On this occasion, doubts were expressed by some members, of the justice, and by others of the expediency, of going to war, at least without further attempts at conciliation; but the general opinion went strongly to concur in the sentiments of the royal declaration, and to agree in the propriety of asserting at all hazards the rights of the nation, and of resisting the domineering and encroaching spirit of France. In the House of Lords, an amendment moved by Lord King for the omission of those expressions in the address which decidedly imputed to France the guilt of breaking treaties was negatived by the vast majority of 142 to 10. In the House of Commons, Mr. Grey moved an amendment to the address which, while it assured his Majesty of their support in the war, expressed a disapprobation of the conduct of the ministers. This was rejected by 398 against 67. On the following day a message from the King informed parliament that he had judged it necessary, for the security of the kingdom, to call out the supplementary militia.

The only remaining effort to avert an extremity which, even by those who thought it inevitable, was regarded as pregnant with burden and peril, was a motion by Mr. Fox on the 27th, for an address to his Majesty, advising his acceptance of the proffered mediation of the Emperor of Russia. This motion, after some debate he consented to withdraw; on a declaration from Lord Hawkesbury, that the government would be ready to accept the mediation of Russia, but

that in the mean time they could not suspend in any degree the requisite exertions for pursuing the war.

A message from the King was brought to parliament on June 17th, announcing that he had communicated to the Batavian government his disposition to respect their neutrality, provided the French government would do the like, and would withdraw its forces from the territory of the republic; but this proposition not having been acquiesced in by France, he had judged it expedient to recal his minister from the Hague, and had given orders for the issue of letters of marque and reprisals against the Batavian republic.

Another message was brought on the 18th, acquainting parliament, that for the security and defence of the country, his Majesty thought it necessary that a large additional force should be raised. The plan for this purpose proposed by the ministry was to levy an army of reserve consisting of 50,000 men, of which 34,000 were for England, 10,000 for Ireland, and 6000 for Scotland, the men to be raised by ballot, and their services during the war to extend to Great Britain, Ireland, and the islands in the Channel. The bill formed upon this plan underwent opposition in both Houses on various grounds, but passed without a division.

A part of the ways and means for raising the supplies introduced by the chancellor of the Exchequer, was a property tax, so called, though, in fact, differing from the former income tax, as he acknowledged, only inasmuch as the proportion now demanded was not so large, and as, in incomes from land or interest of money, no particular disclosure was required. A bill for this purpose, to be in force to a specified time after the signature of a treaty of peace, passed into a law.

As an addition to the means of national defence, a bill was passed for enabling his Majesty to raise a levy *en masse* of the kingdom in case of invasion.

In consequence of a message from the King on July 21st, a motion was made by Lord Hawkesbury for a sum of 60,000*l.* and a pension of 16,000*l.* per annum

to the house of Orange, the ground of which was stated to be, that after the peace of Amiens the Dutch offered indemnities to the Prince of Orange on condition that Great Britain would restore the ships taken in his name, which we had refused to do. This motion brought some severe censure upon ministers for having neglected to urge that compensation to the house of Orange which was stipulated by the treaty of Amiens. The grant, however, passed without opposition.

Whilst measures were taking for carrying on a foreign war, and defending the country against invasion, a new insurrection broke out in Ireland, which occasioned a considerable though short-lived alarm. It originated from some political enthusiasts who planned nothing less than the subversion of the established government, though without the remotest probability of effecting their purpose. The centre of the plot was Dublin, where the principal leader, a young man of parts, but of a heated imagination, had collected a few arms, and hoped by means of a desperate mob to carry the castle guarded by two or three thousand soldiers. The day fixed for the attempt was the 23d of July, on the morning of which, a crowd of country people from the county of Kildare entered the capital. Collecting in a tumultuary assembly, furnished with pikes and fire-arms, they advanced through the principal streets unresisted, and having committed several atrocities, crowned their barbarities by the massacre of Lord Kilwarden and his nephew Mr. Wolfe, whom they dragged out of the carriage which unfortunately fell in their way. Their only martial effort was an attack on an outpost, defended by a few soldiers, whom they overpowered and put to death. Being in their turns attacked by no more than about 120 soldiers, they were dispersed in a short time, with the death of some, and the seizure of others, and the whole insurrection was at once extinguished.

The event was made known to parliament by a royal message, in which it was recommended that the necessary measures should be taken for the suppression of

the rebellious spirit which had manifested itself, and in consequence, a bill for trying rebels in Ireland by martial law, and another for suspending the habeas corpus act in Ireland, were brought in and immediately passed. Several leaders of the insurrection were afterwards tried for high-treason in Dublin by special commission, condemned, and executed.

One of the first acts of the French government, after the declaration of war by England, was to constitute prisoners of war all the English from 18 years of age to 60, or holding any commission from the King, who were then in France, to answer for those French citizens who might have been made prisoners by English ships previously to the declaration of war. This unprecedented violation of the laws of hospitality, which was aggravated by the assurances given to several English visitors that they should enjoy the protection of the French government as fully after the departure of their ambassador as before, was the cause of much personal and domestic calamity; since the refusal of the English ministry to include them in exchanges as fair prisoners of war, whilst Buonaparte would not liberate them on any other condition, subjected them to a captivity only to be terminated by the conclusion of hostilities.

The martial operations of the French were prompt and vigorous. The army of Italy was reinforced, and detachments took possession of all the strong posts of the kingdom of Naples lying on the Adriatic. A considerable body of troops was assembled in Holland near the frontiers of Hanover, under General Mortier, who in the end of May entered the electorate, and summoned it to surrender to the arms of France, the first consul professing that he only intended to occupy it as a pledge for the evacuation of Malta, according to the stipulations of the treaty of Amiens. After a slight resistance from the Hanoverian regular troops, a deputation was sent to the French general by the civil and military authorities of the regency, in consequence of which a convention was entered into, the conditions of

which were, that the whole electorate, with its fortresses, arms and ammunition should be put in the possession of the French, and the Hanoverian troops were to retire behind the Elbe, and engage not to serve during the war, unless exchanged. This conquest having given to the French the command of the navigation of the Elbe and Weser, these rivers were shut against the English commerce; which measure was retaliated upon Germany, no resistance having been made on its part to such an infringement of neutral rights, by blockading their mouths with a British squadron. The King of England having refused to ratify the Hanoverian convention, Mortier prepared to cross the Elbe against the army of Hanover for the purpose of compelling it to surrender as prisoners of war. A new convention, however, was agreed upon, by which the army was disbanded, delivering up its artillery, horses, and military stores.

The grand project of Buonaparte, however, which he himself avowed by way of menace to Lord Whitworth, was the invasion of Great Britain, for which attempt he made preparations of much greater magnitude than those in the late war. Conceiving that gun-vessels might be constructed, capable by their strength and number of crossing the channel in the face of a British squadron, he collected by extraordinary exertions a vast flotilla at Boulogne, and assembled an army ready to embark on the first favourable opportunity. His threats however had the effect of exciting a spirit of adequate resistance. The volunteer associations throughout the island were renewed in such augmented numbers, that in a short time the return of men trained to arms amounted to 300,000; and these spontaneous efforts of the nation at large, in which all rank and party was confounded, superseded the necessity of a coercive levy in mass.

In the West Indies the war commenced with various successes to the British arms. An expedition under the command of Lieutenant-General Grinfield and Commodore Hood sailed on June 20th from Barbadoes

against St. Lucia, and on the 22d the troops carried by storm the fort of Morne Fortunée, which produced the unconditional surrender of the island. To the honour of the British character, it is mentioned in the general's dispatch, that notwithstanding the enemy's severe and spirited resistance, no sooner were the works taken, than all animosity on the part of the assailants ceased, and not one French soldier was killed or wounded. The expedition then proceeding to Tobago, that island was also reduced to the British authority, the commander of its fortress capitulating without resistance. The Dutch colonies of Demarara, Essequibo, and Berbice, surrendered in September on a summons from Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholson, commander of a force detached against them by General Grinfield.

At St. Domingo, the renewed insurrection of the negroes had produced a war attended with the most horrid cruelties on both sides. The black chiefs, Dessalines, Clervaux, and Christophe, were strong enough, in the reduced state of the French forces, to invest the town of Cape Francois, where General Leclerc lay in the last stage of the fatal fever which was melting away the army with which he promised to reduce the whole island. He died on November 2d, and was succeeded in the chief command by General Rochambeau. The Cape and other posts on the sea-coast were effectually defended by the French as long as their fleet was master of the sea; but after the war with England broke out, and their principal positions were blockaded by British squadrons, they were soon reduced to great difficulties. Several places fell successively into the hands of the insurgents, the garrisons of which were generally carried off by the English ships to protect them from the vindictive rage of the assailants. At length, Fort Dauphin having been taken by the English, Rochambeau made proposals for the capitulation of Cape Francois, the only place remaining to the French on the northern side of the island. Conditions were signed on November 30th, by which all the ships of war and merchant vessels belonging to France were

surrendered to the English, and the garrison became prisoners of war. The principal part of this important island was thus left in the occupation of the negroes, while the French retained only St. Domingo, the capital of the part formerly belonging to Spain.

In India, this year was distinguished by a very active campaign of the English in alliance with the Peishwa, or Mahratta sovereign of Poonah; and with the Nizam of the Decan, against the Mahratta chiefs Scindiah Holkar, and the Rajah of Berar, supported by the French General Perron. The Peishwa having, in 1802, been expelled from his dominions by Holkar, negotiated a subsidiary treaty with the English Company, which was concluded at Bassein on the last day of the year. In consequence of this treaty it was resolved to attempt the restoration of the Peishwa, for which purpose a detachment of troops was placed under the command of Major-General Arthur Wellesley, who entered the Mahratta territories in March. Holkar having precipitately retreated on the approach of the British, General Wellesley pushed forward with great rapidity for Poonah, which was re-entered by its sovereign on May 13th. During these proceedings, Scindiah and the Rajah of Berar were negotiating an alliance with Holkar, of which the Governor-General, Marquis Wellesley, at length obtaining positive evidence, it was resolved to employ the whole military force of the Bengal, Madras, and Bombay establishments to break a confederacy rendered particularly dangerous by the junction of Perron, who had obtained almost the power and influence of a sovereign prince, and possessed an army trained in the European discipline. It was a fortunate occurrence that the French Admiral Linois, arriving with a reinforcement of French troops before Pondicherry, was prevented from forwarding them to Perron, and that upon the intelligence of the war between France and England, all those whom he had landed were made prisoners of war.

As soon as it was determined that warlike operations should begin, General Wellesley, who was opposed to

Scindiah and the Rajah of Berar, marched against the fortress of Ahmednughur, which he reduced on August 12th, and then advanced to Aurungabad. On September 23d, he gained a complete victory at Assye over the combined enemy, more than six times his number, but at a considerable cost of men. In the mean time the Bombay army had been successful in Guzerat, where Lieutenant-Colonel Woodington took by assault, on August 29th, the town of Baroach, and reduced its whole district, and afterwards gained possession of the only territory remaining to Scindiah in that province. The town and province of Cuttack, on the eastern side of India, was conquered from the Rajah of Berar by Colonel Harcourt, in the months of September and October. In the north of India the Bengal army, commanded by General Lake, advanced at the close of August against Perron's troops encamped near the fortress of Ally Ghur, and on his retreat took that strong place by storm. On September 11th, General Lake defeated, near Dehli, Scindiah's army commanded by a Frenchman; the consequence of which victory was the release of the Mogul Emperor, Shah Aulum, who had been kept in a very degraded state by the French party, and who now put himself under the protection of the English. He afterwards reduced Agra and its fort; and pursuing the remainder of Scindiah's force, in which were 15 of Perron's regular battalions, he defeated it in a decisive engagement at Laswaree on November 1st. General Wellesley was in the meantime following up his victory at Assye by a warin pursuit of the Rajah of Berar, whom he drove into his own territories, and entirely defeated on November 28th, on the plains of Argaum, which victory was succeeded by the reduction of the strong fortress of Gawil Ghur. These successes produced an immediate application for peace from that sovereign, which was concluded on December 17th, on the conditions of his renouncing the confederacy against the British government, and the cession of the province of Cuttack, and of some other territories, with the en-

gement never to take into his service the subject of any state at war with the English. A treaty with Scindiah speedily followed, in which he agreed to a number of cessions, to a renunciation of all claims upon Shah Aulum, and to the same engagement respecting foreigners with that of the Rajah. Thus was gloriously terminated a war which dissolved a powerful confederacy against the English, annihilated the French interest in India, and made important additions to the power and possessions of the Company.

During the course of this year, the French government made over their late acquisition of Louisiana to the United States of America for the sum of three millions of dollars; a purchase very advantageous to the States by consolidating their territory, and securing them from any future molestation by an ambitious neighbour, and also by removing a cause of dispute with Spain, which had commenced in the last year, respecting the warehousing of American goods at New Orleans.

Parliament re-assembled on November 22d, when the session was opened by a speech from the throne, in which the successes in the West Indies, and the suppression of the Irish insurrection, were alluded to, and the conclusion of a convention with Sweden was announced, the purpose of which was the adjustment of certain differences arising from an article in the treaty of 1661, relative to maritime rights. The accustomed addresses were agreed to without opposition. The parliamentary business previous to the Christmas recess was chiefly the passing of acts continuing the suspension of the habeas corpus and the existence of martial law in Ireland, and for granting certain exemptions in favour of the volunteers in Great Britain.

A. D. 1804.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 44 & 45.
 ——— PARLIAMENT 2 & 3.

Return of the King's Malady. — Bull respecting the Volunteers. — Irish Militia — Mr. Pitt's Conduct towards the Ministry. — Budget — Mr. Addington resigns, and Mr. Pitt occupies his Place. — New Ministry. — Motion carried for a Committee on the Slave Trade — Additional Force Bill — Parliament prorogued, and King's Speech — Gorge taken by the French — Attack on an East India Fleet by Lunow repulsed. — Surinam taken. — Failure of the Catamaran Expedition. — Capture of Spanish Frigates off Cadix — Conspiracy against the Government in France. — Death of Puhgru and Lule of Moreau. — Seizure and Execution of the Duke d'Anglum — Complaints against British Lavoys. — Buonaparte elected Emperor of France. — Disputes between Russia and Sweden, and the French Government. — Sir G. Rumbold seized by the French. — Convention between Genoa and France. — Coronation of Buonaparte — Dessalines proclaimed Emperor of Hayti — Difference between Spain and the United States respecting Louisiana — War in the East Indies against Holkar. — War declared by Spain against England. — Pestilential Disease at Gibraltar

ON February 11th, it was announced by a bulletin issued at St. James's, that his Majesty was much indisposed; and although all the cautious obscurity of language customary on such an occasion was then and afterwards employed, it was well understood by the public, that the royal sufferer was labouring under a return of that mental malady of which he had now undergone several relapses. This calamity occurring at such a period, occasioned much anxiety in the nation, which was not alleviated by the indistinct accounts given from time to time of his Majesty's state. That the attack, however, was not very severe, might be inferred by the declaration in parliament of the

chancellor of the exchequer on February 29th, that "there was no necessary suspension of the royal functions;" and by that of the lord chancellor on March 14th, that "the lords commissioners were warranted in expressing the royal assent to several bills which had already passed both houses of parliament." In the second week of May, it was thought proper to suffer his Majesty to be seen by his subjects in drives through the streets of London and Westminster, accompanied by the Queen and Princesses; but it was several months before he could fully enjoy the comfort of his domestic circle, or was sufficiently tranquil to receive the usual report of prisoners under sentence of death.

The first important subject of discussion in parliament, was a bill brought into the House of Commons by Mr. Secretary Yorke, for the consolidation and explanation of the existing laws respecting the volunteers. In the debates on this subject in both Houses, very different opinions were given concerning the merits of the volunteer system, and the footing on which their services ought to be accepted, and occasion was taken of speaking very disparagingly of the warlike measures of the ministry. The bill, however, after occupying a great part of the session, passed into a law.

On March 26th a message was brought from the King, acquainting parliament with a voluntary offer made by the officers and privates of the Irish militia regiments, to extend their services, if desired, to Great Britain; and recommending that such regulations might be adopted as would enable him to accept of the tender. A bill was thereupon framed for accepting the services of ten thousand of the Irish militia, and another, for augmenting the number of the same militia, both which, after considerable opposition, passed into laws.

A great change was now approaching in the British ministry. At the first formation of the existing administration it was evident that it possessed little natural strength, and the general idea was, that it was meant only to fill up a temporary vacancy, till one of the two

leading parties of which its predecessors were composed, or a new coalition of both, should re-occupy the seat of power. Mr. Pitt, who had taken an active part in making the new arrangement, could not with any decency appear as an oppositionist; and he stood apart from all those who went out with him, in supporting the peace, and other measures of the Addington ministry. He kept, however, for the most part in the back ground; and having carried with him in his retreat from power a great mass of public favour, he was manifestly cautious how he hazarded it by decisive declarations. The accumulating difficulties of the government, however, required a practised hand at the helm; and it cannot be doubted that if the place of prime-minister had at this juncture been a subject of popular election, no man would have united so many suffrages as Mr. Pitt. In the last year a negotiation had been entered into for associating him with the persons then in power, which is said to have failed in consequence of his claiming the liberty of submitting directly to the King such suggestions as he thought essential to the success of the administration — a privilege which would have reduced the other members of the cabinet to insignificance. From that time he appears to have felt no reserve in taking the side of opposition; and to his conduct in this respect was doubtless considerably owing the gradual diminution in the ministerial majorities observable in the divisions of this session.

On the last day of April the budget for the year was opened by the chancellor of the exchequer, in which the necessary supplies were stated at upwards of 36 millions for Great Britain alone. The ways and means proposed were certain additions to the war taxes, a loan of ten millions, and a vote of credit of two millions and a half; and he concluded with moving corresponding resolutions, which were agreed to. Motions were made by the ministers in each House on May 3d for thanks to the civil and military officers, and the army in India, on account of the late victories, which were carried, though not without opposition in the House of Commons, on

the ground that it ought first to be known whether the war in which they had been gained was a just one. This was the last act of the ministry. On May 12th it was announced that Mr. Addington had resigned the office of chancellor of the exchequer, and that Mr. Pitt had been nominated his successor.

The nation in general had formed expectations that the dissolution of an administration devoid of the public confidence, would be followed by a new one, in which those persons of different parties who stood highest in reputation for political talents would be associated ; but whether in consequence of prejudices against individuals prevailing in the *highest quarter*, or of unwillingness in the *great minister* to admit of shares in the supreme authority, the event was different ; for the new arrangement comprized only members of the late cabinet, with a few others who were the particular friends of Mr. Pitt. The ministerial list now stood as follows: the Duke of Portland, president of the council ; Lord Eldon, lord chancellor ; Earl of Westmorland, lord privy seal ; Mr. Pitt, first lord of the treasury and chancellor of the exchequer ; Lord Harrowby, secretary for foreign affairs ; Lord Hawkesbury, secretary for the home department ; Earl Camden, secretary for the colonial department ; Lord Melville (Dundas), first lord of the admiralty ; Earl of Chatham, master of the ordnance ; Lord Castlereagh, president of the board of controul ; Lord Mulgrave, chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster with a seat in the cabinet.

Of the remaining parliamentary proceedings in this session, the first to be mentioned was a motion by Mr. Wilberforce for the appointment of a committee to consider of the propriety of introducing a bill for the abolition of the slave trade after a time to be limited. The motion, which was supported both by Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox, was carried by a majority of 75 to 49. A bill framed for this purpose, after being read a second time in the House, was committed on a majority of 79 votes to 20 ; the lateness of the season, however, caused it to be postponed to the next session.

On June 5th the minister brought in a plan for the military defence of the country, the essential part of which was the creation of an additional force for the permanent increase of the regular army. This additional force was in part to be formed by a reduction of the militia to its ancient establishment. The bill for carrying this plan into execution underwent much discussion, and at length passed into a law.

A bill respecting the corn-trade was introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Western, the object of which was to regulate the importation and exportation of grain by the average price of corn and flour in the maritime districts of England and Scotland. It passed through both Houses with little opposition, but receiving some amendments in the House of Lords, which were not agreed to by the Commons, it was postponed.

Parliament was prorogued on July 31st by a speech, of which the most material passage was an intimation given of a view in the present war beyond that of the mere security of this country. "I entertain (said his Majesty) the animating hope, that the benefits to be derived from our successful exertions will not be confined within ourselves, but that, by their example and their consequences, they may lead to the re-establishment of such a system in Europe, as may rescue it from the precarious state to which it is reduced; and may finally raise an effectual barrier against the unbounded schemes of aggrandizement and ambition which threaten every independent nation that yet remains on the continent."

The first military operation of the year was the capture of the English settlement at Goree on January 18th by a small French force, which obliged Colonel Fraser, the commander, who had no more than 25 men, to capitulate. It was, however, re-captured in March by Captain Dixon of the *Inconstant* frigate.

Admiral Linois, who had escaped from the road of Pondicherry in consequence of the ignorance of the British admiral that war had taken place between the two nations, after capturing some India ships, and plun-

dering the English factory of Bencoolen, fell in, near the straits of Malacca, on February 14th with the Company's homeward-bound China fleet of 15 ships, accompanied by 12 country ships and a Portuguese Indianan. Linois had under his command the *Marengo* of 81 guns, and some frigates; and an action ensued, in which by the able and spirited conduct of Captain Dance, who acted as commodore, the French were beaten off, and stood away with full sails, without having made a single prize.

An expedition under Major-General Sir Charles Green and Commodore Hood, sailed from Barbadoes in the beginning of April, against the Dutch settlement of Surinam, and arrived off the river of that name on the 25th. The troops being landed, a summons was sent to the governor to surrender the colony; and on his refusal to capitulate, active measures were taken for the reduction of the forts guarding the approaches. This being effected with no considerable loss, terms of capitulation were concluded on May 5th, by which the colony was given up to his Majesty, with the ships of war, artillery, stores, &c.; the troops became prisoners of war, and the inhabitants were secured in their property and laws.

Various attempts in this year against the enemy's flotillas on their own coasts failed of success. The most considerable of these was an undertaking in the beginning of October, conducted by Lord Keith with a fleet of men of war, frigates, and smaller vessels, to destroy about 150 French vessels moored on the outside of Boulogne pier. The instruments chiefly relied on for this purpose were certain exploding vessels, called catamarans, which were to be sent into the midst of the enemy. Their effect, however, wholly disappointed expectation, the damage sustained from them being very inconsiderable.

These failures were compensated by an important success, if the circumstances and results attending it do not deprive it of a claim to that title. Intelligence having been received that some cargoes of treasure

from the American mines were expected at Cadiz, Captain Moore, with the *Indefatigable* and three more frigates, was dispatched to cruise for them off that port. On the 5th of October four large Spanish frigates were discovered steering for Cadiz, when the English ships each took a position along-side of an antagonist, and a shot was fired to make the headmost bring to. The admiral who commanded her was informed by Captain Moore that he had orders to detain the Spanish squadron, and that it was his earnest wish to execute them without bloodshed, but that the determination must be instant. An unsatisfactory answer being returned, a close engagement commenced, ship to ship, when, within ten minutes, *La Mercedes*, the Spanish Admiral's second, blew up with a tremendous explosion, and all on board perished, with the exception of forty, who were taken up by the boats of her antagonist. The other Spanish frigates all struck in succession, after a considerable loss in killed and wounded. It was a peculiarly affecting circumstance, that in the ship which blew up was the whole family of a native of America, consisting of his lady, four daughters, and five sons, with the exception of one of the sons, who, with his father, had gone before the action on board of another ship, and were spectators of the dreadful catastrophe. The lading of the captured vessels was of immense value, consisting of gold and silver bullion and rich merchandize, the destination of which for the service of France, was the reason assigned for this act of violence without a previous declaration of war. It was, however, much censured as well at home as abroad; and the admiralty in particular incurred blame for not having sent such a predominant force to intercept the Spanish ships, as would have allowed their commander to submit at once, without impeachment to his honour; whereas the equality of strength rendered a sanguinary combat inevitable.

No other important events relative to the war occurred during the present year.

The internal state of France had in the meantime been undergoing changes which rendered that country

an object of interest and speculation to all Europe. Early in February a conspiracy was detected at Paris, the purpose of which was the subversion of the established government. The principals in this design were General Pichegru; Georges, formerly a leader of the insurgents in Britany; and Lajollais, his confident, to whom several other persons were attached. General Moreau had also so far entered into their plans as to have held some secret interviews with Pichegru after his return to Paris. A confidential agent of the conspirators having been arrested on returning from England, his information produced the apprehension of Moreau and Lajollais, Pichegru and Georges at that time escaping, though they afterwards were discovered by the vigilance of the police, and committed to prison. Deputations from the senate, the legislative body, and the tribunate, waited on the first consul as soon as the plot was made known, and attributing it to the machinations of the English government, exhorted him to take every measure for the preservation of a life to which the destinies of the French people were inseparably annexed. Sometime after, Pichegru was found strangled in prison, according to the government report, by his own hand, but the public opinion attributed the deed to a different author. Georges and some of his accomplices were publicly executed. Moreau, whose high reputation rendered it unsafe to proceed to extremities against him, was permitted to transport himself to America.

Buonaparte was by no means backward in following the counsel given him of being attentive to his personal security, and he was led by it to an act which excited the detestation of all Europe, and which will remain a foul blot on his memory. The Duke d'Enghien, eldest son of the Duke of Bourbon, who had served with distinction in the emigrant corps of Condé, had retired, after it was disbanded, to Ettmheim in the electorate of Baden, near the French frontier, where he lived as a private gentleman. It is certainly not improbable that he chose this situation in order to be the more readily

informed by secret correspondence of all that was passing in France, and that he had it in view, should any favourable opportunity offer, again to lend his aid to the royal cause. How far any connection between the late conspiracy, and the Duke and other emigrants residing in that vicinity, was traced by evidence, can only be known to those who had access to the documents produced; but the possibility of it was sufficient to excite the jealousy of the first consul; and with him "to doubt was to be resolved." Without any previous application to the Elector, he ordered General Caulincourt with a body of cavalry to cross the Rhine on the night of March 14th; and on the following day, the Duke d'Enghien and some other persons were seized upon at Offenbourg and Ettenheim, and conveyed to the citadel of Strasburg. The Duke was sent forward to Paris on the 17th, and after a rapid and unintermitted journey, arrived there on the 20th. He was immediately hurried to the castle of Vincennes where a military commission was sitting, composed of persons selected by Murat, Buonaparte's brother-in-law. Articles of accusation were brought against him, in which he was charged with a traitorous correspondence with England, with placing himself at the head of a body of French emigrants in English pay, with a correspondence in Strasburg for the purpose of stirring up a revolt in the neighbouring departments, and with being an accomplice in the late conspiracy. Without any evidence produced, he was pronounced guilty in two hours, and sentenced to death. On the night of the 21st he was taken to the wood of Vincennes under a guard of Italian gens d'armes, where he was shot by nine grenadiers, displaying in his last moments, as he had done throughout the whole scene, the greatest intrepidity and self-possession. Although this tragedy was regarded with indignation at all the European courts, Russia alone made a public remonstrance against the violation of all the rights of neutrality with which it was attended: this was however replied to in a lofty and recriminating tone.

In order to divert attention from this atrocity, and pre-occupy the ground of complaint, the French government made public a charge against the British minister at the Court of Bavaria, Mr. Drake, accompanied by a variety of documents and intercepted letters, of having engaged in a clandestine correspondence with certain persons in France, with the purpose of overturning the government; and it did in fact appear that he had been unwarily led to give ear to the pretended projects of Mehée de la Touche, a man of infamous character, who at the same time betrayed him to the French government. The originals of this correspondence being communicated to the Elector at Munich, his first minister was directed to express to Mr. Drake his master's regret that his capital should have been made the center of a correspondence so inconsistent with the character of a foreign ambassador, and to acquaint him that he could no longer be received at court; in consequence, Mr. Drake was obliged to quit Bavaria. Mr. Spencer Smith, envoy to the Elector of Wurtemberg, having been involved in these transactions, was also under the necessity of leaving Stuttgart. These incidents were the subject of a paper war between the French and English ministry; and Buonaparte caused it to be publicly declared that he would not recognize the British diplomatic body in Europe, so long as they should be charged with any warlike agency, and should not restrain themselves within the limits of their functions.

The first consul was now possessed of as much substantial authority as any sovereign in Europe. France, either awed by his power, or vain of his splendour, was perfectly obsequious to his will; and foreign princes, if not recognizing him as an equal in dignity, could not but feel his consequence as a potentate. But he had risen too high to be content with inferiority of any kind, and rank and title were wanting to fill up the measure of his ambition. On March 27th, the senate, doubtless from private suggestion, sent an address to him with the proposal that he should be constituted Emperor of France with hereditary right. In his answer, he poli-

tically referred to the sovereignty residing in the French people as proper to decide this point; and addresses presently followed from the armies, the municipality of Paris, and other bodies, expressing their desire that such a disposition should take place. The way being thus prepared, one of his creatures on May 1st made a motion in the tribunate (the body in which laws originated) for conferring on Napoleon Buonaparte the rank and title of Emperor of the French, with hereditary succession of the same in his family, according to the laws of primogeniture. The only opponent was Carnot, who delivered his sentiments with force and freedom on the subject, but the discussion being deferred to the following day, the proposition was adopted with no other negative than his. The decree framed in consequence was transmitted to the senate; and on May 18th the measure was completed in an Organic Senatus Consultum. By this instrument, the government of the *republic* was confided to the Emperor Napoleon Buonaparte, and power was given to him, if he should have no male issue, to adopt an heir from the children and grandchildren of his brothers. The title of Prince and Princess, and of Imperial Highness, was conferred on all the members of the Buonaparte family, of whom, Joseph was nominated grand elector, and Louis, constable of France: the titles of the two subaltern consuls merged in those of arch-chancellor and arch-treasurer. A number of generals were raised to the rank of marshal; and, in short, all the forms and decorations were adopted belonging not only to the regal, but to the imperial dignity. Religion was pressed into the same service, and letters were sent to all the prelates of France by the emperor, announcing his elevation, and dictating an ecclesiastical ceremonial for the occasion. The event was notified to the diet at Ratisbon, and to the several foreign courts.

The Emperor of Germany, by way of maintaining his equality of rank, assumed the title of hereditary Emperor of Austria.

In the meantime serious discussions were going on between the Emperor of Russia and the French government; the former warmly remonstrating against the usurping and domineering spirit of France, and insisting upon the evacuation by the French troops of the kingdom of Naples and the north of Germany, and the indemnification of the King of Sardinia. The refusal of compliance occasioned M. Oubril, the Russian resident, to demand his passports for departure from France; and both parties made preparations for a commencement of hostilities. The King of Sweden, who had protested against the violation of the neutrality of the German empire in the case of the Duke d'Enghien, was treated with so much personal insult in a French official journal, that he notified to the French chargé d'affaires at Stockholm, that no farther diplomatic intercourse could be permitted between the French legation and the Swedish government.

On October 25th a party of French troops crossing the Elbe, seized Sir George Rumbold the English chargé d'affaires to the circle of Lower Saxony, at his country house near Hamburg, on the pretext of his being engaged in plans similar to those of Messrs. Drake and Smith. He was conveyed to Paris, and detained in confinement, till he gave his parole not to return to Hamburg, nor within a certain distance of the French territory; after which, he was sent to England, but without restitution of his papers. His liberation was the result of a remonstrance from the Court of Prussia.

In October a convention was concluded between the Court of France and the republic of Genoa, by which the latter, in return for some commercial advantages, engaged to furnish 6000 seamen to France during the war, and to place its harbours, dock-yards, arsenals, &c. at the disposal of the French government.

The grand ceremony of the coronation of the Emperor and Empress of France took place at Paris on

November 19th, with all the magnificent pageantry that ingenious adulation could devise. That part of the ceremonial which most forcibly displayed the power and influence which Buonaparte had attained, was the placing of the crown on his head by the hands of the Pope, who came from Rome to perform this office. His Holiness, before he departed, made an address to the consistory, in which he said, "Our dearest son in Christ, Napoleon, Emperor of the French, who has so well deserved of the catholic religion for what he has done, has signified to us his strong desire to be anointed with the holy unction, and to receive the imperial crown from us, to the end that the solemn rites which are to place him in the highest rank shall be strongly impressed with the character of religion, and call down more effectually the benediction of heaven." This desire must indeed have been signified in very cogent terms, to have induced the head of the catholic church to perform an office so repugnant to the relation in which he stood to all the sovereigns acknowledging his authority, and to the Bourbon Princes in particular. On December 26th, a session of the legislative body was opened by the administration of an oath to each member separately, in presence of Napoleon seated on his throne in imperial state, the terms of which were, "I swear obedience to the constitutions of the empire, and fidelity to the Emperor;" and the year closed with as quiet a submission of the whole French nation to their new sovereign, as if he had been the unquestioned successor of an ancient dynasty.

In this year, the blacks of St. Domingo obtained entire possession of the French part of that island, in which they sacrificed to their revenge all the white inhabitants who had not made a timely escape. The horrors to which this unfortunate settlement was witness from the commencement of the political disorders, may be regarded as illustrations of the nature of that society which subsists between masters and slaves. The negro chief, Dessalines, who had succeeded Toussaint, imitating the victorious chief of France, caused himself

to be elected and proclaimed Emperor of Hayti (the native name of the island), and formed an imperial court with all its etiquette and appendages.

A difference arose between the Spanish government, and that of the United States of America, which at one time threatened serious consequences. The minister of Spain made a protest against the transfer of Louisiana to the Americans, on the ground that France had not fulfilled the conditions of the treaty by which that province was ceded to her; and preparations were making by the Spaniards for resisting by force of arms its occupation by the American government; when the powerful interposition of the French Court obliged them to acquiesce in the arrangement.

In the East Indies, a new war broke out against the Mahratta chief Holkar, who had remained inactive during the war against Scindiah and the Rajah of Berar, and had been strengthening himself for future enterprizes of plunder and aggrandisement. The British government having in vain attempted to bring him to amicable terms of agreement, it was resolved to retain in the neighbourhood of his position the troops which had been employed against Scindiah under General, now Lord Lake, whilst those in the Decan, commanded by General Wellesley, were to be in readiness for co-operating with him. After various actions in an excursive campaign, General Frazer, on November 13th, attacked Holkar's infantry and artillery, near the fortress of Deeg, and gained a complete victory, but in which he lost his own life. On the 17th of the same month, Lord Lake surprised and defeated the whole cavalry of Holkar near Furruckabad, himself narrowly escaping from the field. The war, however, was unexpectedly protracted, and carried into the next year, by an alliance between Holkar and the Rajah of Bhurtpore.

The Court of Spain, on December 12th, issued a declaration of war against Great Britain, grounded on numerous alleged acts of hostility and injustice com-

mitted by the latter, among which the attack upon the frigates was particularly noticed.

In this year a pestilential disease raged at Gibraltar, which carried off a great number of the garrison and inhabitants. ,

A. D. 1805.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 45 & 46.
 ——— PARLIAMENT 3 & 4.

Mr. Addington taken into the Pitt Ministry. — King's Speech. — Motion for continuing the Suspension of the Habeas Corpus in Ireland. — Discussion respecting the Rupture with Spain. — Budget — Slave-trade Abolition Bill rejected. — Charge against Lord Melville: his Resignation, and Impeachment. — Petition from the Roman Catholics of Ireland for Relief from their civil Disabilities rejected. — Grant of Money for the Purpose of making Continental Connexions. — Letter to the King from the French Emperor, and Answer. — Further Preparations for Invasion and Defence. — Attempts of the French in the West Indies. — Buonaparte crowned King of Italy. — Genoa annexed to France. — New Bavarian Constitution. — Treaty between Great Britain, Russia, and Austria. — Napoleon advances to attack the Austrians. — Capitulation of General Mack, and Loss of almost the whole Austrian Army. — French enter Vienna. — Campaign in Italy, and Austrians expelled. — Battle of Austerlitz, or of the three Emperors. — Armistice granted to the Emperor Francis. — Retreat of the Emperor Alexander. — Treaty of Neutrality between France and Naples. — The combined French and Spanish Fleet sails to the West Indies, and is followed by Lord Nelson. — Both return. — Villeneuve's Action with Sir Robert Calder. — Glorious Victory of Trafalgar, and Death of Nelson. — Termination of the War in the East Indies against Holkar. — Treaty of Presburg between France and Austria. — Treaty between France and Prussia. — Resignation of Lord Sidmouth (Addington), and the Earl of Buckinghamshire. — Illness of Mr. Pitt. — Duke of Gloucester dies.

THE administration formed by Mr. Pitt having obtained no accession of strength by the alliance of other parties, but rather consolidated opposition, it was thought expedient at least to call to its aid the few who had been displaced by it; and one of the first measures of this year was a reconciliation between Mr. Addington and Mr. Pitt, effected, it was said, by the express desire of his Majesty. The former was raised to the peerage

by the title of Viscount Sidmouth, and was made lord president of the council in the room of the Duke of Portland, who resigned. At the same time Lord Mulgrave was appointed secretary of state for the foreign department in the place of Lord Harrowby, and the Earl of Buckinghamshire, chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Parliament, after a much longer prorogation than usual, assembled on January 15th. The royal speech with which it opened, mentioned that the conduct of the Court of Spain under the direct influence of France had been such, as to compel his Majesty to take decisive measures for guarding against hostility in that quarter; that the refusal of satisfactory explanations from that power had occasioned the departure of the English minister from Madrid; and that war had since been declared by Spain against this kingdom. The conduct of the French government towards the continent of Europe was then adverted to, as marking a determination to violate every principle of public law and civilized usage, and to obtain uncontrolled predominance in Europe. Notice was taken of the receipt of a communication from that government, to which no reply had been made except in general terms expressive of a wish for the restoration of peace; more particular explanations having been declined without previous communications with those powers with whom his Majesty was engaged in confidential intercourse, and especially with the Emperor of Russia. The addresses in return to the speech were unanimously agreed to.

The first debate of importance that occurred in parliament was consequent upon a motion in the House of Commons made on February 8th, by Sir E. Nepean, secretary to the lord-lieutenant of Ireland, for a bill to continue the suspension of the habeas corpus in that country. The grounds stated for it were the disaffection still prevailing in Ireland, the preparations of France for invading it, and the existence of a committee of United Irishmen in Paris holding correspondence with their associates at home. It was contended on the

other hand that these grounds were insufficient for such a restriction of public liberty without more particular reasons, and an amendment was moved by Sir John Newport, for a committee chosen by ballot to examine documents, and report their opinion on the necessity of such suspension. After a debate on the question, the amendment was rejected by 112 votes to 32, and the original motion passed.

The important subject of the rupture with the Court of Spain came next to be discussed in both Houses. The arguments employed by the ministers in justification of their conduct in this matter were chiefly these : that the treaty of St. Ildefonso between France and Spain, by which each party bound itself to furnish a certain aid of ships and men to the other in case of its being engaged in a war, without any enquiry into the justice or policy of that war, had *ipso facto* rendered Spain a principal in the present war : that the commutation made by Spain of assistance in money, for assistance in kind, did not alter the nature of the case : that although we chose to connive at this substitution through a spirit of moderation, we still retained the right of objecting to it when the sum exceeded reasonable limits, as by calculation, the pecuniary supply furnished by Spain, compared with the troops stipulated, was found greatly to do : that there was no convention of neutrality between this country and Spain, all that the latter was given to expect being a conditional connivance : that our forbearance was founded on the express condition that there should be no armaments in the Spanish ports ; and that when these were going forward without a satisfactory cause assigned, when French soldiers and sailors were clandestinely allowed to march through Spain, when the preponderating influence of the French minister at that court was not denied, and it declined to declare the real state of its engagements with France, the British government was fully justified in acting as it had done. The detention of the Spanish frigates made no part of the case, since there would equally have been war without it ; and it was not even

known at Madrid till after the departure of the English minister. On the other side, though it was admitted that the treaty of St. Ildefonso bore a hostile character, yet it was contended that we had virtually abandoned our claim to the right of making war, and had substituted a recognition of neutrality: that Spain had in no instance directly violated the neutrality: that there were no armaments preparing against Great Britain in her ports: that in the negotiations which our ministry carried on with the Court of Spain their ground was frequently shifted, their demands varied, and their concessions were undefined: and that the seizure of the frigates was not, as asserted, a measure of precaution, but of violence, injustice, and bad faith. The termination of the long debates on this subject was, that in the House of Lords, the motion for an address to his Majesty, applauding the wisdom and justice of the government in the transactions with Spain, being combated by an amendment proposed by Earl Spencer stating all the contrary arguments at length, it was negatived by 114 to 36; and in the House of Commons, a similar amendment offered by Mr. Grey was negatived by 313 to 106; after which the addresses passed without a division.

The budget was opened by the minister on February 18th, when the joint charge of supplies for Great Britain and Ireland was stated at upwards of forty-four and a half millions. Among the ways and means were a loan of twenty millions for England, and two and a half millions for Ireland, and several new war taxes; of which, an increase of one half in the duty on salt was particularly objected to, as likely to be injurious to the fisheries; and considerable modifications were made before it passed.

A bill introduced into the House of Commons for the abolition of the slave trade was rejected by 77 votes against 70.

In April the attention of the public was strongly excited to a charge against Lord Melville, first lord of the Admiralty, resulting from the tenth report of the

commissioners of naval enquiry. It was brought before the House of Commons by Mr. Whitbread, who, after referring to the act in 1785, for regulating the department of treasurer of the navy, of which Lord Melville, then occupying that post, was himself the supporter, and which advanced the salary of the place from 2000*l.* to 4000*l.* in lieu of all emoluments which might before have been derived from the public money in the treasurer's hands, stated three heads of charge bearing upon him. These were, his applying the money of the public to other uses than those of the naval department; his conniving at a system of speculation in an individual (Mr. Trotter) for whose conduct he was responsible; and his having been a participator in that speculation. He concluded a speech in which the particular circumstances of the case were laid open, by moving a number of resolutions founded upon it.

Mr. Pitt, after observing that there was nothing in the report of the commissioners which implied that any mischief had arisen to the public from the circumstances complained of, objected to the method of proceeding now proposed, and thought the best course to be pursued, would be referring the report to a select committee. In consequence, he made a motion for an amendment to that purpose, which he afterwards changed, on the suggestion of Mr. Fox, for a motion for the previous question. After a continuation of the debate, the House divided, and there appeared, for Mr. Whitbread's motion 216, against it 216, when the speaker gave his casting vote in its favour. Mr. Whitbread then moved an address to the King requesting him to remove Lord Melville from his counsels and person for ever, but, at the desire of Mr. Pitt, he agreed to postpone the motion to a future day. When that day arrived, the House was informed that Lord Melville had resigned his office of first lord of the admiralty, and also that Mr. Trotter had been dismissed from that of paymaster to the navy. It being suggested that there was a possibility of Lord Melville's restoration, Mr. Pitt said, that he had no hesitation in

declaring that all idea of the noble lord's return to power was completely annihilated. The debate at that time terminated in an unanimous vote that the resolutions of the former night be laid before his Majesty by the whole House. It was afterwards announced, that Lord Melville's name had been erased from the list of the privy council.

After various other proceedings, his lordship requested to be heard at the bar of the House of Commons respecting the matter contained in the report of the commissioners. On this occasion, he acknowledged having appropriated the public money entrusted to him, to other public purposes, but solemnly denied having derived any private benefit therefrom, or participated in the profits made by Mr. Trotter: he confessed, however, that he had applied the sum of 10,000*l.* in a way which he could not reveal consistently with private honour and public duty. When he had withdrawn, Mr. Whitbread made a motion for his impeachment, which was negatived by a majority of 272 to 195, and an amendment moved by Mr. Bond for a criminal prosecution passed by the small majority of 238 to 229. The friends of Lord Melville, however, soon after finding reason to prefer an impeachment, a motion for that purpose was made by Mr. Leycester, which, after Mr. Fox's motion for the previous question had been negatived, was carried without a division. Mr. Whitbread, accordingly, accompanied by a great number of members, on June 26th, impeached Lord Melville in the name of the Commons of Great Britain, of high crimes and misdemeanors, at the bar of the House of Lords.

In May, a petition from the Roman Catholics of Ireland to be relieved from the civil disabilities under which they laboured, was introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Grenville, and into the House of Commons by Mr. Fox. After debates in which the principal speakers on each side took a part, the petition was rejected in the former house by 178 against 49; in the latter 336 against 124. It may be interesting to

report what was said on this occasion by Mr. Pitt, who professedly quitted the ministry in 1801, on account of his inability to carry such a measure. After having asserted his opinion, that since the union of the kingdoms, he saw none of those dangers from granting the claims of the petitioners which many seemed to apprehend, and that circumstances had rendered it impossible for him to bring forward the measure at the time he thought most favourable for it; he said, what those circumstances were, it was neither now, nor then necessary for him to explain; but as long as they should continue to operate, he should feel it a duty not only not to bring forward, but not to be a party in bringing forward, or in agitating, this very important question. At present, he must say that the prevailing sentiment was totally against it, and being convinced that it was not the time when it was prudent to agitate the subject, for these reasons he should give a decided negative to the motion.

On June 19th, a message from the throne was brought to parliament, the purpose of which was to acquaint the Houses that the communications which had taken place between his Majesty and some of the continental powers, had not yet been brought to such a point as to enable him to lay the result before parliament; but that, conceiving it might be of essential importance that he should have it in his power to avail himself of any favourable conjuncture for forming such a concert with other powers as might afford the best means of resisting the inordinate ambition of France, his Majesty recommended to parliament to consider of making provision for entering into such engagements as the exigency of affairs might require. The result of this message was the grant of a sum not exceeding three and a half millions for the purpose stated.

Parliament was prorogued by commission on July 12th.

The public events of this year, political and military, place it among the most interesting in the history of

that war which has by turns involved every European state.

At the opening of the year, the person who must now be termed the French Emperor, addressed a letter to the King of Great Britain, in the style of a brother sovereign, in which, announcing his elevation to the throne of France by the suffrages of the senate, the people and the army, he declared his wish for peace between the two countries, and endeavoured to shew how little advantage on either side could be gained by a continuation of hostility. An answer was given by Lord Mulgrave, secretary for foreign affairs, directed to M. Talleyrand, in which it was declared that the King, though ardently desirous of the restoration of peace, was persuaded that this end could be attained only by arrangements which should provide for the future safety and tranquillity of Europe; and that in consequence he could not reply more particularly to the overture made to him, till he had had time to communicate with the powers on the continent, with whom he was engaged in confidential relations. This reply, with the King's speech noticing the application, were made public in France with comments endeavouring to inculcate the opinion that there was no probability of the success of the English government in exciting a new confederacy against her, and inveighing in the strongest terms against the inveterate spirit of enmity displayed by Great Britain. At the same time the greatest activity was exerted in preparations for the menaced invasion of England. The flotilla of Boulogne was continually augmenting, and the troops encamped in its vicinity were accumulated to more than 100,000 men, perfectly disciplined, and placed under the command of some of the ablest generals in France. Squadrons of French ships, which had hitherto been cautiously kept in port, were now hazarded out to sea in order to divide the British naval force; while greater enterprizes were projected by the junction of the Spanish and French main fleets. On the other hand,

adequate means of resistance were provided on this side the channel. The southern coast of England was fortified on the most exposed parts by a range of Martello towers, and every effort was made for encreasing the forces by sea and land.

One of the first enterprizes of the French was an attempt on the island of Dominica, with an armament of five sail of the line and three frigates, having on board 4000 land forces. A landing being effected on February 29d, the commander proceeded to Prince Rupert's, where the governor of the island, General Prevost, had posted himself, with all the force he could assemble. After he had been summoned without effect, the French, who had levied a contribution on the inhabitants of Roseau, which town was set on fire in the attack on it, re-imbarked on the 27th. The armament then proceeded to St. Christopher's, where a landing was made, and a contribution exacted. The same was done at Nevis; after which the squadron returned to France from an expedition, the success of which was by no means adequate to the equipment.

Napoleon, who, with the Gallic empire, seems to have regarded himself as invested with the pretensions of a successor to Charlemagne, now determined to place on his head the iron crown of Italy with the imperial diadem. Addresses having been presented to him (doubtless by his own procurement) from the various constituted authorities of the Italian or late Cisalpine republic, intreating him to remedy in person the defects of their constitution, he set out, accompanied by his Empress, for Milan early in May, being received wherever he passed with the highest honours. On the 26th of that month he announced his compliance with the humble request of the states, that he would take upon him the title and authority of King of Italy; and his coronation was performed at Milan with the greatest pomp and solemnity. At the ceremony he took from the altar the iron crown of Italy with his own hands, and placed it upon his head. By the terms of a new constitutional code framed for the country, the privilege was conferred upon him of nomi-

nating a successor to the crown, which, however, was afterwards to be hereditary under certain limitations, and was not again to be united to the imperial crown of France. He might also govern by a viceroy; and before his departure he nominated to that post his step-son Eugene Beauharnois.

During this visit to Italy, Napoleon accomplished another important political object, which was the annexation of the Ligurian republic to the French empire. The Doge of Genoa, who was present at the coronation in Milan, having expressed the desire of the republic to become a subject of the great Napoleon, a gracious answer was returned, in which was explicitly declared his future purpose respecting a maritime code. "You will find (said he) a flag which, whatever may be the pretensions of my enemies, I will maintain, on all the seas of the universe, constantly free from insult and from search, and exempt from the right of blockade, which I will never recognize but for places really blockaded as well by sea as by land. You will find yourselves sheltered under it from this shameful slavery, the existence of which I reluctantly suffer with respect to weaker nations, but from which I will always guarantee my subjects."

In March, a plan for a new constitution was presented to the legislative body of the Batavian republic, by the state directory, which was accepted by the people, and M. Schimmelpenninck being elected first pensionary, he opened the session of the States-General on May 15th. All the forms of an independent government were preserved; but the influence of France was apparent in a proclamation soon after issued, by which all commercial intercourse with Great Britain, and the admission direct or indirect of all articles of British manufacture, were strictly prohibited.

The negotiations between the courts of London and Petersburg, which were alluded to in the King's speech at the beginning of the year, terminated in a treaty signed on April 11th, by which the Emperor of Russia, and the King of England, reciprocally bound themselves

to use the most efficacious means for forming a general league of the states of Europe, for the purpose of putting a stop to the encroachments of the French government, and securing the independence of the different states. Sweden and Austria had entered into the same views, but they declined proceeding to hostilities till an attempt to attain the objects of the alliance by negotiation should have proved abortive. A Russian envoy was in consequence deputed to France, who had advanced as far as Berlin on his way, when the intelligence of the annexation of Genoa to France produced his immediate recall. This event determined Austria to become a member of the league, and a treaty for that purpose was signed by her plenipotentiary at Petersburg on August 9th. At the same time a note was addressed by the Austrian ambassador at Paris to the French minister for foreign affairs, expressing the desire of his court to concur with those of London and Petersburg in their endeavours to promote a general pacification. A correspondence followed, of reciprocal professions and accusations, which terminated in having recourse to arms as the only arbiter.

Napoleon, in whose warlike plans promptitude was always the leading feature, determined to strike a home blow at his Austrian antagonist before he could be joined by the Russians. Renouncing his project of the invasion of England, he dismantled his flotilla at Boulogne, broke up the greater part of his camp in that quarter, and having augmented his army in Italy, he drew the bulk of his force from Holland and Hanover, which proceeded by rapid marches to meet the Austrians on the banks of the Danube. The troops of that power early in September had passed the Inn into Bavaria, the Elector of which had been summoned to join his force to that of Austria. He, however, withdrew from Munich to Wurtzburg, whilst his troops retreated into Franconia; and for this defection, his country was subjected to severe exactions. The French, estimated at 150,000 men, advanced in six divisions, under the command of the Marshals Bernadotte, Marmont, Davoust, Soult,

Ney, and Lannes, and having all crossed the Rhine, were joined at the end of the month by Napoleon, who passed the border with his guards at Kehl. He addressed a proclamation to his army, drawn up in his usual vaunting style, in which he told them "You are but the vanguard of the great nation; if it be necessary it will in a moment rise at my voice, to dissolve this new league, which British gold and hatred have woven"—unfortunately these were not vain words.

The Bavarians having made a junction with two French divisions at Wurtzburg, they advanced towards the Danube on the north, while the other divisions were proceeding in different directions, the main object being to cut off the communication between the Austrian army of from 80 to 90,000 men under General Mack, which had advanced to the defiles of the Black Forest, and the territories of Austria. By a series of bold manœuvres and successful actions, this was so completely effected by the middle of October, that Mack was entirely surrounded in Ulm with 30,000 men, who remained to him after the loss of several detached portions of his army, and the retreat of a part to Bohemia under the Archduke Ferdinand. Preparations were immediately made for storming Ulm, but a summons was at the same time sent to Mack to capitulate, with which he thought it necessary to comply. On October 20th the whole of the Austrian troops in that city laid down their arms before the French Emperor, and surrendered themselves prisoners of war with all their artillery and magazines. Thus was almost annihilated the force with which the Austrians commenced the campaign, nearly 60,000 of them having been taken prisoners, with a small comparative loss on the part of the French.

Vienna was now the object in Napoleon's view, and he lost no time in pursuing it. Proceeding to Munich, he advanced at the head of the main body, having before him a corps of Austrians which had been reinforced by the first column of the Russians. The French crossed the Inn in face of these allies, who, not

being strong enough to resist them, retreated step by step on the road to Vienna. In the first week of November, Napoleon had his quarters at Lintz, where he received proposals from the allies for an armistice, to which he replied by such conditions as a conqueror alone could dictate, and in the meantime he continued his operations. The alarm was now extreme at the capital, whence the Emperor Francis retired with all his court to Brunn in Moravia, while the greater part of the nobility took refuge in Hungary. The inhabitants in general patiently awaited the conqueror, and only appointed a guard to aid the police in keeping the city tranquil. On the 11th the French main body arrived, and took up their quarters in the suburbs. They entered Vienna on the 13th, the advanced guard passing through by the bridge over the Danube without halting. Napoleon on the 15th joined the army which was advancing into Moravia to meet the Russians.

While these events were passing in Germany, active operations were taking place in Italy, where Marshal Massena was opposed to the Archduke Charles. The Archduke John occupied the passes of the Tyrol, in order to keep up a communication between the forces in Germany and those in the Venetian territory. On October 18th the French forced the passage of the Adige, and took a position near Caldiero, where the Archduke Charles was strongly posted. Massena, having there received intelligence of the surrender of Mack, and the advance of Napoleon, made a general attack on the Archduke's line, which after a severe conflict he entirely broke with great loss. After this disaster, the Archduke began his retreat, pursued by the French, who on December 3d obtained possession of Vicenza. Both armies passed the Brenta, and the Tagliamento; and the Austrians continued their retrograde motion, perpetually harassed by the pursuers, till they reached Laybach in Carniola. Massena then halted to learn what was passing in Tyrol. In that country the Archduke John was closely pressed by different French divisions; and at length Ney having forced his way to Inspruck, and

pushed his head-quarters to Bolzano, the Archduke, finding himself unable to defend Tyrol, formed a junction with his brother at Laybach. They then hastened their march towards Vienna, while the French, who had reduced Tyrol, proceeded to join the main French army, and Massena held the Archdukes in check.

The allied main army now consisted of about 50,000 Russians, with the Emperor Alexander at their head, and 25,000 Austrians, chiefly new levies. The French, when joined by the divisions of Bernadotte and Davoust, amounted to between 70 and 80,000 men, in the highest state of discipline, and full of confidence from past victories. Near Austerlitz, on the direct road from Vienna to Olmutz, was fought on the 2d of December the memorable battle of that name, called also of the Three Emperors, from the presence of those of France, Russia, and Austria. Napoleon was his own general in chief; the Russians were commanded by General Kutusoff, and the Austrians by Prince John of Lichtenstein. The action, which commenced at the dawn of day, and continued till evening, was full of variety and extremely sanguinary. It terminated with the retreat of the allies in good order, but with the loss of many prisoners, and the greatest part of their artillery and baggage. The French advanced on the next day, and an armistice, proposed by the Emperor Francis, took place on the 4th. By its terms, the French army was to remain in possession of all its conquests till the conclusion of a definitive peace, or till the rupture of the negotiations for it; in the latter case, hostilities not to re-commence till fourteen days after notice formally given. It was further stipulated, that the Russian army was to evacuate Moravia and Bohemia within fifteen days, and Hungary within a month, and to retire by prescribed routes; also, that there should be no extraordinary levy of troops in the Austrian dominions during this period. To these humiliating conditions the Emperor Alexander refused to become a party, and he commenced a retreat in his own manner on

December 6th. The Archduke Charles, likewise, who was advancing on the bank of the Danube from Hungary with a powerful force, was greatly mortified on his arrival at Vienna to find that he was reduced to a state of inaction.

While Austria and Russia were thus confronting the power of France, Prussia maintained a cautious neutrality. A violation of her territory by a march of Napoleon through a part of it, without asking permission, did indeed elicit some sparks of resentment, which the English ministry hoped to kindle into a flame; but the capture of Mack's army caused the affront to be passed over in an accommodation. A scheme for the recovery of Hanover by Swedish troops in British pay, and commanded by their King in conjunction with English and Russian troops, was also frustrated by the consequences of the battle of Austerlitz.

A treaty of neutrality between the French Emperor and the King of Naples was signed in September, by which the former was enabled to withdraw his troops from that country, and join them to Massena's army in the north of Italy.

Whilst the French were thus pursuing their victorious career by land, their ambitious ruler was doomed to experience the defeat of his hopes of gaining a superiority on that element which had hitherto witnessed the unvaried triumphs of a rival power. Admiral Villeneuve having in the month of March eluded the vigilance of Lord Nelson, who had been long blockading the harbour of Toulon, proceeded thence with eleven ships of the line and two frigates, and sailed to Cadiz. Being there joined by one French and six Spanish sail of the line, he proceeded to the West Indies, with ten thousand troops on board, destined, no doubt, for some important enterprize in that part of the globe. Lord Nelson, who had been anxiously searching for him in every part of the Mediterranean, on being apprized of his intentions, immediately determined to follow, in order to prevent the mischief he was likely to do in our islands. With only ten sail of the line he pursued a fleet of eighteen

sail across the Atlantic, and reached Barbadoes on June 4th, three weeks after the arrival of Villeneuve at Martinique. Fortunately the latter had remained nearly inactive during that interval; and hearing of the presence of the dreaded Nelson, he set sail on his return without any farther attempt, and was immediately followed by his indefatigable pursuer. Nelson came to England without the satisfaction of meeting with his chase; but Villeneuve, before he arrived in port, having with him twenty sail of the line and five frigates, French and Spanish, fell in with Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Calder, cruising off Cape Finisterre with fifteen sail of the line and two frigates. The British commander made the signal for attack, July 22d, and an engagement ensued in which two ships of the line were taken from the enemy. The success would probably have been greater but for the foggy weather, which prevented manœuvring with advantage.

Lord Nelson, after his return, was offered the command of a fleet able to cope with the united fleets of France and Spain, which, as corresponding with his ruling passion, he most willingly accepted. Sailing from Portsmouth in September, he took the command of the fleet under Admiral Collingwood lying off Cadiz, and having stationed a line of frigates to convey intelligence of all the enemy's motions, he cruized off Cape St. Mary, waiting till the combined fleet should venture to sea. To encourage this resolution, he detached some ships from his fleet upon a particular service, knowing that their places would soon be supplied by others from England, and this stratagem succeeded. On October 19th the combined fleet, amounting to 33 sail of the line, of which 18 were French and 15 Spanish, left the harbour of Cadiz, steering towards the straits of Gibraltar. They were immediately followed by the British fleet of 27 ships of the line, which came up with them on the 21st off Cape Trafalgar, near the southern point of Andalusia. Nelson had previously laid a plan of attack which was a master-piece of naval skill, and assured him of success. The enemy, on his approach,

drew up in the form of a crescent, and waited for the English fleet, which bore down in a double column, the great commander's last telegraphic signal being "England expects every man to do his duty." Nobly indeed was it performed on this glorious day, for the battle of Trafalgar is without a parallel in the annals of British victory. The enemy's line being broken by the leading ships of the English columns, a close action was brought on, which, in about four hours terminated in the capture of nineteen sail of the combined fleet, with the commander-in-chief, Villeneuve, and two Spanish admirals. Such an action could not fail of being bloody even to the victors, who lost, in killed and wounded, 1587 men; but the loss which in a national view was the greatest of all, was that of the distinguished commander, the pride and glory of the British navy, who received a mortal wound by a musket-shot from the ship with which he was closely engaged, and died at the moment of declared victory. To himself, indeed, no death could be so desirable; and the honours paid by a grateful and admiring nation to the memory of Nelson were scarcely surpassed by those offered to the hero of any age or country. It was some diminution to the success of this great action, that the tempestuous weather which immediately followed, rendered it necessary to destroy almost all the prizes, four of which alone were carried safe into Gibraltar. Four of the fugitives, however, afterwards fell into the hands of Sir Richard Strachan, who was cruising with the same number of ships of the line and some frigates off Ferrol, on November 4th. On the whole, the battle of Trafalgar was a blow to the combined navies from which they never recovered during the war, and which left the British flag entire master of the sea.

In the East Indies, war continuing between the East India Company and the Rajah of Bhurtpore aided by Holkar, Lord Lake early in the year made several successive attacks on the town of Bhurtpore, in all of which he was repulsed with considerable loss. At length, Holkar's general, Ameer Khan, having been entirely

routed by General Smith, and himself so much reduced that he could give no assistance to his ally, whilst Lord Lake was preparing for a new attack on Bhurtpore, the Rajah made proposals for peace, which were acceded to on April 10th, on the condition of his yielding to the Company the fortress of Deeg, and restoring the districts which had been conferred upon him after the peace with Scindiah, together with the payment of a sum of money. In July Lord Cornwallis arrived at Madras to take upon him the office of governor-general, to which he had been appointed as successor to the Marquis of Wellesley, who was recalled. His lordship, however, was in such a reduced state of health, that he died in the October following. Peace was signed with Holkar on December 24th, on favourable conditions, by which he was received as a friend of the Company; and thus a temporary calm was restored to that part of India.

The political year in Europe closed with the peace consequent upon the armistice between France and Austria. It was signed at Presburg on December 26th, and its conditions sufficiently proved the disastrous state to which the latter power was reduced. The Austrian Emperor renounced his share of the Venetian territories, which was annexed to Napoleon's kingdom of Italy. He recognized the new made Kings of Bavaria and Wurtemberg, and the new Elector of Baden. To the former of these, the hereditary enemy of his house, he ceded the county of Tyrol and the lordships of Voralberg; and his possessions in Franconia, Suabia, and Bavaria, were divided between the three. In compensation, he obtained the county of Salzburg and Berchstolgaden taken from the Archduke Ferdinand, who received the territory of Wurtzburg in their stead. The grand-mastership of the Teutonic order was likewise transferred in perpetuity to the house of Austria. By this treaty it was estimated that the Emperor lost in subjects more than 2,700,000 souls, and in revenue 16 millions of florins. The total exclusion from Italy, and the loss of the Tyrolese frontier

on Switzerland, were severe strokes upon his political consequence.

A treaty concluded about the same time between France and Prussia, which replaced the troops sent by Great Britain and its allies to Hanover by those of Prussia, had important consequences in the following year.

Some domestic occurrences still remain to be mentioned. The reconciliation of Mr. Pitt and Lord Sidmouth was not attended with a durable union. Whilst the former felt severely the parliamentary attack upon his intimate friend Lord Melville, and used every effort to divert it, the latter, with those attached to him, took an active part in bringing the culprit to public justice. Other differences were said to subsist; and that the parties found themselves unable to act in concert, appeared from the resignation of their places by Lord Sidmouth and the Earl of Buckinghamshire on July 10th, who were succeeded by Earl Camden and Lord Harrowby.

At this time Mr. Pitt began sensibly to feel the decline of a constitution originally delicate, and long severely exercised by care and fatigue. The unfortunate events of the Austrian campaign, and the apparent ruin of a confederacy which he had taken so much pains to form, were strokes which his exhausted frame was little able to resist, and towards the close of the year he was compelled to quit all public business, and he retired to Bath with very faint hopes of recovery.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, next brother to his Majesty, died on August 25th, in the 62d year of his age, much beloved and respected for the virtues of private life. •

A. D. 1806.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 46 & 47.

— PARLIAMENT 4 & 1.

King's Speech. — *Death of Mr Pitt, and Honours paid to his Memory.* — *Entire Change of Ministry.* — *Mr Windham's Plan of recruiting the Army for limited Service.* — *Militia Bill* — *Budget.* — *Free Interchange of Corn between Great Britain and Ireland.* — *Bill for Intercourse between America and the West India Islands* — *Progressive Measures to the final Abolition of the Slave Trade.* — *Trial and Acquittal of Lord Melville* — *Conquest of the Kingdom of Naples by the French, and Elevation of Joseph Buonaparte to its Throne.* — *Attempt for its Recovery, and Victory at Maida.* — *Insurrection against the French finally suppressed.* — *Events on the Coast of Dalmatia* — *Hanover occupied by Prussia, and consequent Difference between the latter and England* — *Negotiation for Peace between Great Britain and France finally unsuccessful* — *The same between Russia and France.* — *Napoleon's Plans of Aggrandisement in Germany* — *Confederation of the Rhine established, of which he was declared the Protector.* — *The Emperor of Austria obliged to resign his Office as Emperor of Germany* — *Prussia prepares for War with France.* — *Napoleon joins his Army* — *Battle of Jena or Auerstadt, followed by total Conquest of the Prussian Territory west of the Oder.* — *Treaty between France and Saxony* — *Electors of Hesse expelled from his Dominions by the French, and Hanover occupied* — *Hamburg entered by them* — *Napoleon's Berlin Decree against British Commerce.* — *Campaign of the French beyond the Oder.* — *Napoleon at Warsaw.* — *The Republic of the Seven United Provinces changed into a Monarchy, and Louis Buonaparte declared King.* — *Elevation of the other Branches and Connections of the Family* — *State of Spain and Portugal* — *Capture of French Ships by Sir J. Duckworth.* — *Other Naval Successes.* — *Colony of the Cape of Good Hope conquered.* — *Sir Home Popham's Expedition to the Rio de la Plata.* — *Buenos Ayres taken by General Buxford, and afterwards recovered.* — *Haiti.* — *Conference for adjusting the Differences between England and America* — *Last Indian Mutiny at Vellore.* — *Shipping destroyed in the Harbour of Batavia.* — *War renewed between the Russians and Turks through the Intrigues of France.* — *Death of Mr. Fox.* — *Alterations in the Ministry.* — *Parliament dissolved, and a new one assembled.* — *King's Speech.*

PARLIAMENT assembled on January 21st, when the royal speech was delivered by commission. Its

topics were congratulation on our naval successes, and regret for the disasters of our allies on the continent, alleviated, however, by the assurances given of the adherence of the Russian Emperor to his alliance with Great Britain. The application to the public service of one million out of the droits of admiralty accruing to the crown, by direction of his Majesty, was mentioned, and the speech concluded with the usual recommendation of vigorous exertion, as the only means of bringing the nation with safety and honour out of the present contest. It was probably supposed that no opening for opposition to the customary addresses was left in this speech; but one sentence, in which the King expressed his confidence that parliament would be of opinion that he had left nothing undone to sustain the efforts of his allies, was made the ground of an amendment prepared in each House, to the effect that an enquiry should be made into the cause of the disasters which had attended the arms of our allies, as far as they might be connected with the conduct of the ministers. The intention of moving the amendment was, however, relinquished on account of the intelligence that the death of Mr. Pitt was momentarily expected.

This eminent statesman expired on January 23d, in the 47th year of his age, after having conducted the government of this kingdom for a longer period, and with greater power and popularity, than, perhaps, any other minister. He had the misfortune, however, of leaving his country, which he had brought safely through much internal trouble, deeply involved in difficulty and danger from foreign war, and loaded with burdens which put an end to all the cheering hopes of relief, consequent upon those financial projects on which his early reputation was chiefly founded. His character, however, still stood so high with a large party of friends and admirers, that to lamentation for his loss, the care immediately succeeded of paying public honours to his memory. Mr. Lascelles moved in the House of Commons an address to his Majesty, that he would give directions for Mr. Pitt's interment in West-

minster Abbey, and the erection of a monument to his honour, at the public expence. The motion was powerfully supported by several members, who pronounced splendid eulogies on the services he had rendered to his country. It was opposed by others who had a different opinion of his merits; and Mr. Windham, in particular, objected to the epithet of "excellent statesman" given to the deceased in the proposed address. The motion was, however, carried by 258 votes to 89. A motion soon after by Mr. Cartwright for the grant of a sum of 40,000*l.* for the payment of his debts (for no minister had ever less attended to his own pecuniary emolument) passed without opposition. A motion in the common council of London for a monument to his memory in Guildhall, was carried by no greater majority than 77 to 71.

So much were the strength and credit of the ministry attached to the person of Mr. Pitt, that Lord Hawkesbury declined the offer of becoming his successor, and it was manifestly necessary to make a total change in the government of the country. Lord Grenville was required to attend the King in order to consult on the formation of a new ministry, and no objection was made to his associating Mr. Fox in that important charge. The following arrangement was finally settled; Lord Erskine, lord high chancellor; Earl Fitzwilliam, lord president of the council; Viscount Sidmouth, lord privy seal; Lord Grenville, first lord of the treasury; Lord Howick (Grey) first lord of the admiralty; Earl of Moira, master-general of the ordnance; Earl Spencer, Mr. Fox, and Mr. Windham, secretaries of state; Lord Henry Petty, chancellor of the exchequer; Lord Ellenborough, lord chief justice. All these were cabinet ministers, and in every other department the change was entire and complete.

One of the first measures brought forward by the new ministry was an alteration in the military system of their predecessors, particularly as to the mode of recruiting the army. Mr. Windham, on April 3d, introduced the subject by some general remarks.

There were, he said, only two modes by which an army could be recruited, force or choice. The first being excluded, as unfitted for England, voluntary enlistment was the only means left; and the sole way of rendering this successful was to improve the trade of soldier, and bring it to a competition with the other trades usually followed by the lower classes. For this purpose he proposed that the soldiers raised in future should be enlisted for a term of years, and his plan was to divide the term into three periods, of seven years each for the infantry; and for the cavalry and artillery, the first period to be of ten years, the second of six, and the third of five; at the end of each period the man to have a right to claim his discharge, with privileges to be augmented the longer he served. He concluded with moving for a bill to repeal the act called the additional force bill. As this was a point the decision of which involved the credit of the late ministers, the whole force of opposition was brought into the contest through every stage of the bill, which, however, finally passed both Houses. The plan for limited service was next introduced, May 30th, by way of a clause to be inserted in the mutiny bill, which, after encountering the same opposition with the former bill, was carried. A bill for the training of a certain number of persons not exceeding 200,000 out of those liable to serve in the militia, and two others relative to the militia itself, completed the new military system.

The budget for the year was opened by the chancellor of the exchequer on March 28th. At this period the unredeemed national debt of Great Britain and Ireland amounted to nearly 556 millions, and the redeemed to 127 millions, of which the annual charge was nearly 27 and a half millions. The requisite supplies on account of Great Britain were stated at 43,618,472*l.*; and among the proposed ways and means were a loan of 18 millions, and war taxes to the amount of 19 and a half millions. The most serious of these taxes was an advance of the

property tax from six and a half to 10 per cent. to include all property above 50*l*. a year, which, though an unpopular measure, it was found necessary to continue during all the subsequent years of the war. The correction of abuses connected with the revenue department also occupied the attention of the ministers, and some wholesome regulations were adopted for this purpose.

An important commercial law passed in this session, was that for permitting the free interchange of grain of every kind between Great Britain and Ireland without either bounty or duty, the good effects of which to both countries have since been amply experienced. An act also passed under the title of the American intercourse bill, though not without violent opposition, for legalizing the trade for lumber and provisions carried on by neutrals to the West India islands, which in time of war had generally been found indispensably necessary, though violating the navigation laws. It empowered the King in council, when such necessity should arise during the present war, to authorize his governors, under such restrictions as should seem fit, to permit this traffic, with the proviso that neutrals should not import any commodities, staves and lumber excepted, which were not the produce of their own countries, and should not export sugar and other products of the islands.

The abolition of the slave trade, which for so many years had been a leading object of the friends of humanity in this country ; which had been supported by the eloquence of the late prime minister whenever it was brought before parliament, but had as constantly been defeated by the prevalence of interests which, as minister, he did not chuse to oppose ; was with so much earnest sincerity pursued by the persons now in power, that a progress was made in the present session towards bringing it to full effect, which gave security to the final event. So much was the mind of Mr. Fox impressed with the importance of this great measure, that he declared, that if, during a service of almost forty years in

parliament, he had been so fortunate as to accomplish that, and that only, he could retire from public life with the conscious satisfaction of having done his duty.

The first step in this progress was a bill brought in by the Attorney-General, Sir A. Pigott, prohibiting under strict penalties the exportation of slaves from the British colonies, after January 1st, 1807; the object of which was to prevent the investment of British capital, or the employment of British vessels and seamen, in the foreign slave-trade. It is to be observed, in justice to Mr. Pitt's last administration, that he had caused an order of council to be issued for the prevention of the importation of slaves into the colonies conquered by us during the present war, which was going as far as the power of the crown alone extended; but the act in question was of much more extensive operation. It was carried through both Houses with no very considerable opposition.

The next bill brought in, and which passed without being opposed, was for the purpose of preventing the increase of the British slave trade in all its branches. It went to prohibit the engaging of any vessel in that trade which had not been actually employed in it before August 1st, 1806, or contracted for such employment before June 10th, in that year. The duration of this act was limited to two years.

It was succeeded by a resolution moved by Mr. Fox in these words: "That this House, conceiving the African slave trade to be contrary to the principles of justice, humanity, and sound policy, will, with all practicable expedition, proceed to take effectual measures for abolishing the said trade, in such manner, and at such period, as may seem advisable." The resolution was opposed, but on a division it was carried by 114 votes against 15. It was then sent up to the House of Lords, and a conference was demanded on the subject, after which on a motion from Lord Grenville, the Lords concurred in the same by a majority of 41 to 20.

The concluding step was an address from both Houses of parliament to the King, beseeching him to take such measures as might appear most effectual for obtaining by negotiation the concurrence of foreign powers in the abolition of the slave trade, and the execution of the regulations adopted for that purpose.

The trial of Lord Melville on his impeachment by the Commons was a circumstance of considerable interest in the domestic transactions of the year. It commenced in Westminster hall on April 29th, before the Lords, the members of the House of Commons being present in a committee of the whole House. The articles of the charge were ten in number, but in substance were reducible to three: 1. That as treasurer of the navy he had applied divers sums of public money to his private use and profit: 2. That he had permitted his paymaster Trotter to take large sums of money from the bank of England issued to it on account of the treasurer of the navy, and place it in his own name with his private banker: 3. That he had permitted Trotter to apply the money so abstracted to purposes of private emolument, and had himself derived profit therefrom. The trial was conducted with unusual dispatch for a proceeding of that nature, the evidence and arguments on both sides being closed on May 17th, and sentence being pronounced on June 12th. The result was, that by a majority his lordship was declared not guilty upon every one of the ten articles, but in four of them the majority for his acquittal was considerably less than double the number of those who gave a contrary judgment. The whole number of Peers voting was 135.

Of the foreign military and political events of the year, those relating to Naples occupy the first place. In the preceding November a squadron of English and Russian men of war landed a body of troops of both nations at Naples, and as no opposition or remonstrance against this measure was made by the Neapolitan court, it was regarded by the French as a breach of neutrality. The Russian troops not long after received an order to re-embark and return to Corfu, and the English com-

mander, Sir James Craig, thought it expedient to follow the example, and take his force back to Sicily. Napoleon, when informed of this transaction, issued a proclamation from Vienna, in which he declared that "the Neapolitan dynasty had ceased to reign;" and a French army under the command of Joseph Buonaparte, assisted by Massena and other generals, marched for Naples, and on February 9th, had their head-quarters at Ferentino on the frontier of that kingdom. On the 15th Joseph entered the capital, the garrison in the city and the forts having previously capitulated. The King and Queen had withdrawn to Palermo in January with a part of the Neapolitan army, and accompanied by several of the nobility. The heir of the kingdom, the Duke of Calabria, remained in Naples till the approach of the French, when he retired with some troops to Calabria, where General Damas, a French emigrant, was endeavouring to organize a levy *en masse*. General Regnier marched in pursuit of the fugitives, and after some actions, in which the Neapolitans displayed very little martial spirit, the war in Calabria was brought to a close, and the whole kingdom of Naples submitted to the French, except Gaeta and another fortress. Most of the principal families in the country, being alienated in their affections from their legal sovereign, attached themselves to the French interest; so that Napoleon ventured to issue a decree conferring the crown of Naples upon his brother Joseph and his heirs male, with the proviso that the crown of that country and of France should never be united in the same person. Joseph accordingly caused himself to be proclaimed King on March 30th, and exacted an oath of fidelity from all the constituted authorities, and the nobles testified the greatest satisfaction in the change.

The Queen of Naples and the Duke of Calabria, however, (for the King was a cypher) resolved to make some attempts to recover the crown, and by their emissaries they excited insurrection against the French in Abruzzo and Calabria, which for a time freed those provinces from their conquerors. While the distur-

stances were still subsisting, Sir Sidney Smith, arriving at Palermo about the middle of April, took the command of the English squadron lying there, and which consisted of five sail of the line with some frigates and smaller vessels. He began his operations by throwing succours into Gaeta; and afterwards taking possession of the isle of Capri, he proceeded along the coast, exciting a general alarm, and keeping up a connection with the discontented Calabrese. At length, in consequence of the urgent requests of the Court of Palermo, Sir John Stuart, who commanded the British troops in Sicily, embarked a body of about 4800 effective men, with which, on July 1st, he effected a landing in the gulph of Euphemia near the northern frontier of Lower Calabria. General Regnier with his troops being encamped some miles distance at Maida, Sir John determined upon attacking him before he should be joined by some expected reinforcements, and accordingly advanced to the place on the 4th. The junction, however, had been made the night before, and the enemy, to the number of about 7000, descended from the heights, and marched into the plain to meet the assailants. Both armies after some firing rushed on with the bayonet, when the superior firmness of the British soldiers presently decided the contest. As soon as the weapons crossed, the French gave way, and were pursued with a dreadful slaughter. An attempt to retrieve the honour of the day proved ineffectual, and a complete victory was left to the British, whose loss was inconsiderable compared to that of their opponents. The immediate consequence of this brilliant action was a general insurrection of the Calabrian peasantry, and the expulsion of the French from the province. Efforts of this kind, however, were unable to produce any permanent change in the state of the Neapolitan kingdom, and Sir J. Stuart, sensible that he could not long maintain his ground in Calabria, prepared for returning to Sicily. Having by one of his officers obtained possession of the strong fort of Scylla opposite to Messina, he recrossed the straits, leaving the Calabrese insurgents to

contend with an exasperated foe, who treated them as rebels; and every kind of cruelty was practised on both sides in a protracted and desultory warfare. The French, soon after the battle of Maida, reduced the fortress of Gaeta, which had long employed a considerable portion of their force; and General Fox, who took the command of the British in Sicily, refusing to concur in the hopeless plans of the Court of Palermo for recovering Naples, the new government in that kingdom remained undisturbed except by some intestine disorders.

The town and district of Cattaro on the coast of Dalmatia having by the treaty of Presburg been transferred from Austria to France, during the delay of the French in coming to take possession, a Russian man of war from Corfu arrived in the port, while the inhabitants, aided by a band of Montenegrins, were in a state of resistance to the stipulated transfer. On this event, the commander of the Austrian garrison on March 4th evacuated Cattaro, which was immediately occupied by the natives, chiefly Greeks, who delivered it to the Russians. The French on their arrival, by way of compensation for their disappointment, seized Ragusa, to which they had no claim, on pretence of securing it against the Montenegrins. They were afterwards besieged in the place by the Russians and Montenegrins, but held out till relieved by General Molitor with an army from Dalmatia. The French then became the assailants, and soon cleared the territory of Ragusa from the allies. The latter being afterwards assembled in force near Castel Nuovo were defeated with great loss by General Marmont; but the Russians remained in possession of that place and Cattaro to the end of the year.

The Court of Prussia, which had greatly varied in its politics, and had been upon the point of engaging in the coalition against France, was induced by the event of the battle of Austerlitz to enter into a treaty with that power in the close of the last year, by which, in return for the cession of Anspach, Bayreuth, Cleves,

Neufchatel, and Valengin, the Prussian troops were put in possession of the Electorate of Hanover. This occupation was first under the pretext of keeping the country in guard till the conclusion of a general peace; but by a subsequent treaty, signed February 15th, Prussia was bound not only to annex Hanover to her dominions, but to exclude British vessels and commodities from all her ports, in conformity with the great project of Napoleon to shut the whole European continent to the commerce of England. In retaliation of this act of hostility, the British ministry gave notice to the neutral powers that measures had been taken for the blockade of the Ems, Weser, Elbe, and Trave; an embargo was laid upon all Prussian vessels in the harbours of Great Britain and Ireland; and the English ambassador was recalled from Berlin. These proceedings were made known to parliament by a royal message, April 21st, to which an approving address was unanimously returned. Thus, in the early part of the year, Great Britain and Prussia were decidedly at variance. The King of Sweden, likewise, whose troops had been obliged by the Prussians to quit Lunenburg, put in practice the same measures against the ships and ports of Prussia.

Whilst the north of Germany was in this dubious state, negotiations were carrying on between the Courts of France and England which for a time afforded a prospect of the restoration of peace. They originated in a correspondence between Mr. Fox and M. Talleyrand, the occasion of which had been the disclosure to the former of an infamous plot for the assassination of the French Emperor, by a foreigner, who seemed to expect the concurrence of the English minister in the design; but of which Mr. Fox, with his characteristic generosity of spirit, thought himself obliged to give warning to M. Talleyrand. In the reply to Mr. Fox's communication, an extract was given from a speech of the Emperor to the legislative body on March 2d, in these words; "I desire peace with England. On my part I shall never delay it a moment. I shall always be

ready to conclude it, taking for its basis the stipulations of the treaty of Amiens." This being regarded as an opening for a negotiation, letters followed between the two ministers, in which a spirit of conciliation was manifested on both parts; but a difficulty arose from the determination of the British cabinet not to treat separately from Russia, while that of France expressed an unwillingness to admit such an interposition. The negotiation, which underwent several interruptions, was carried on during a great part of the year, first by means of Lord Yarmouth, who had been one of the *detained* English, and had obtained his liberty through the request of Mr. Fox; and then by the Earl of Lauderdale, who was delegated to Paris for the purpose. As it finally proved fruitless, it is unnecessary to enter into the particulars of the proposals and demands on each side. That the English ministry were sincere in their desires of peace cannot be doubted; but that the commercial part of the nation, at least, did not participate in this wish, may be inferred from the triumphant shouts with which the news of Lord Lauderdale's return was greeted at Lloyd's coffee-house.

Connected with this attempt for pacification was a negotiation carried on with the French Court by that of Russia. The Emperor Alexander having appointed M. D'Oubril his plenipotentiary for this purpose, that minister opened his commission at Paris on July 10th. It soon appeared, that either from incapacity or perfidy, he was ready to make any concession to the French minister appointed to treat with him; and on the 20th he signed a treaty, some of the most material articles of which he did not communicate to Lord Yarmouth, who was then the British negotiator at Paris. When this treaty was laid before the Russian Emperor, he refused to ratify it; which refusal was not the consequence of any representation from the British government. It was of D'Oubril's entire departure from the tenor of the instructions given to him. The two powers were therefore left in the same state of hostility as before.

Transactions were in the meantime taking place in Germany which rendered more and more manifest the ambitious designs of the ruler of France, and finally terminated in a new war. The Court of Berlin, which hoped by its shifting politics to secure a powerful confederate in its schemes for aggrandisement, soon found that this ally would not hesitate to sacrifice its interests to his own designs. The investiture of Murat, a soldier of fortune who had married the sister of Napoleon, in the Duchies of Berg and Cleves, gave Prussia an unwelcome neighbour to her Westphalian territories. A still more sensible mortification was derived from the discovery of the Prussian minister at Paris, that the French government had offered to the King of Great Britain the entire restitution of his electoral dominions as a condition of peace with England. It was further discovered that in the negotiations of France with Russia, the former had agreed to prevent Prussia from depriving the King of Sweden of his German territories, the invasion of which it had strongly urged upon the Prussian Court.

But the dangerous interference of the French Emperor in the political system of Germany was displayed in the most forcible manner by the plan of a new confederation, of which he was to be the head. On July 15th, a treaty of confederacy was signed by the Emperor of the French, the Kings of Bavaria and Wurtemberg, the Archbishop of Ratisbon, the Elector of Baden, the Duke of Berg, the Landgrave of Hesse Darmstadt, and several minor German Princes, in which Napoleon was chosen protector; and the other powers, separating themselves from the German empire, and renouncing all connection with it, established a federal alliance for mutual assistance in case of war, and fixed a contingent of forces which each was to contribute, that of France being 200,000 men out of a total of 258,000. This confederation of the Rhine, as it was termed, was therefore a plan for setting up a new chief of Germany, at the expence of the influence of the Houses both of Austria and Brandenburg. The humiliation of the Emperor Francis was soon after completed

by a message sent to him from Napoleon, signifying that he must prepare to lay aside the title of Emperor of Germany, and yield the precedence to France; to which mandate, conscious of inability to resist, he submitted without remonstrance; and by a formal act, he resigned his office as head of the German empire, and annexed his possessions in Germany to the empire of Austria.

The King of Prussia had been led to acquiesce in this important change, by the hope of being permitted to form a confederacy in the north of Germany under his protection; but he was soon informed that he could not be allowed to include the Hanse towns in this confederacy; of which Napoleon would himself be the protector; and also that he must use no compulsion to engage in it any independent Princes against their inclination, which, it was hinted, was the case of the Elector of Saxony.

From the accumulated provocations above recited, the King of Prussia, who had declined entering into the powerful league of the preceding year against the French predominance, was induced (contrary, it is said, to his own judgment) to engage single-handed in a conflict with so formidable a foe; for England, who had taken a leading part in former alliances for the same purpose, was so far from being the prompter on this occasion, that she was still in a state of hostility with Prussia. From the middle of August the Prussian army was placed on the war establishment, but negotiations, apparently of a pacific tendency, were for some time carried on between the two courts, each attempting to deceive the other, while both were aware of the necessary result. Napoleon, who had continually been advancing troops towards the scene of action, summoned the confederates of the Rhine to furnish their contingent, and left his capital for the army on September 24th. On October 1st the Prussian minister at Paris presented a note, containing demands as a preliminary to a negotiation, the first of which was, that the French troops should immediately re-cross the Rhine; to which Napoleon did not deign an answer.

The Prussian army, under the supreme command of the Duke of Brunswick, and consisting, together with the Saxon auxiliaries, of 150,000 men, was posted, in the beginning of October, on the banks of the Saale, and in the vicinity of Erfurt, Gotha, and Eisenach. The French were collecting their troops about Bamberg, whither Napoleon arrived on the 6th, and on the 8th his army was in motion to attack the Prussians. After a variety of movements conducted with great skill and success, the French army turning the left of the Prussians, became master of their magazines, and interposed itself between their main force, and Berlin and Dresden. A general engagement now became unavoidable. The French were posted along the Saale from Naumburg to Kahla, their centre being at Jena. The Prussians were ranged between the latter place, Auerstadt and Weimar. On the morning of October 14th was fought the great battle of Auerstadt or Jena, in which from 250,000 to 300,000 men, with 7 or 800 pieces of cannon, were employed in mutual destruction. The courage and discipline on each side were perhaps equal, but the military skill was greatly superior on the part of the French. Without attempting to enter into the detail of the action, it is sufficient to relate, that the Prussians were finally defeated in every quarter; the King fled from the field with a small body of cavalry, the Duke of Brunswick received a mortal wound, more than 20,000 Prussians were killed or wounded, and from 30 to 40,000 were made prisoners, and 300 pieces of cannon were taken. Some detached bodies which escaped were afterwards taken prisoners, and nothing remained in the least able to oppose the victors. All the principal towns in the electorate of Brandenburg, though strongly garrisoned, surrendered, almost without resistance, and Berlin was entered by the French on the 25th. The King continued his retreat to Königsberg, where he remained to the end of the year without again joining his army. Louis Buonaparte, in the meantime, with a separate army reduced all the Prussian provinces of Westphalia, and penetrated into Hanover. Every

thing belonging to Prussia to the west of the Oder was in the hands of the victor a short time after the battle of Jena ; and history scarcely affords an example of a power high in military fame, which fell before an invader with so little effort to retard its fate.

As it was the policy of the French ruler to make a friend of the Elector of Saxony, six thousand Saxon prisoners taken in the battle were set at liberty on giving their parole not to serve against the French, and the Elector was encouraged to remain at Dresden, where he soon after concluded a treaty of peace and alliance with France. Heavy contributions, however, were levied in the electorate, and Leipzig was rigorously searched for English goods. The fortune of the Elector of Hesse was more severe. On the pretext of his subsidiary alliance with England, Marshal Mortier made an irruption into his dominions, expelled him from his capital, destroyed his fortresses, removed his magazines, and disbanded his troops. The marshal also took formal possession of the electorate of Hanover ; and the house of Brunswick was declared to have lost the sovereignty of its ancestors.

The great commercial city of Hamburg was entered by Mortier without opposition on November 19th, and an order was immediately issued for the sequestration of all English produce and manufactures found in the city, whether belonging to British subjects or to other persons. The English merchants in Hamburg were placed under arrest, and, when afterwards released on parole, were guarded by soldiers. These measures were only a part of the grand design of excluding all British commerce from the continent, which the extraordinary successes of the French Emperor now ripened to a system. On November 20th he promulgated a decree at Berlin, prohibiting all commerce and correspondence, direct and indirect, between the British dominions and the countries subjected to his rule. He declared the British islands to be in a state of blockade ; all subjects of Great Britain found in countries occupied by French troops, prisoners of war ; all English property

lawful prize; all commerce in British produce and manufactures prohibited; and all vessels touching at England or any English colony, excluded from every harbour under the controul of France. He justified these infringements of the law and practice of civilized nations by the English extension of the law of blockade, and the difference of the laws of war by sea and land; and it was affirmed that the regulations of this decree should be regarded as a fundamental law of the French empire, till England should recognize the law of war to be the same by sea and land, and should restrict the right of blockade to fortified places actually invested by a sufficient force.

The King of Prussia having endeavoured by negotiation to obtain a suspension of arms from the victor, such hard conditions were required by Napoleon, that he chose rather to try the farther chance of war than comply with them. In the meantime the French troops crossed the Oder, in two divisions, one of which, commanded by Jerome Buonaparte, undertook the conquest of Silesia. More resistance was made than had been expected, and the capital, Breslau, after undergoing a bombardment of three weeks, did not surrender till the beginning of the following year. The other division, under Davoust, entered Posen on November 10th, and on the 28th the French troops entered Warsaw, which had been abandoned by the Russians. Napoleon at their head crossed the Narew on December 23d, and on the 26th a battle with the Russians took place at Pultusk, in which the loss was considerable on both sides, but the advantage remained on that of the French. Their troops afterwards went into cantonments, and Napoleon returned to Warsaw.

It is now proper to turn back and take a view of what was transacting in the rest of Europe during this period.

Actuated apparently by the double intention of elevating his own family, and of leaving no example of popular government, the French Emperor in this year effected the change of the ancient republic of the Seven

United Provinces into a monarchy, the crown of which he placed on the head of his brother Louis. A deputation was sent from the Hague to Paris, for the purpose of negotiating this transfer of supreme authority ; and a proclamation of King Louis, countersigned by Admiral Verhuel the chief of the deputation, was issued at Paris on June 5th, in which he made known, that, with the approbation of his illustrious brother the Emperor, and agreeably to the wishes of the people, to the constitutional laws, and to the treaty presented to him by the deputies of the Dutch nation, he had assumed the royal dignity of King of Holland. A constitutional code was annexed, which began with confirming the constitutions of 1805, with certain exceptions referring to the monarchical power, one of which was, that the government of the colonies and their internal administration was exclusively vested in the King. The independence of the kingdom of Holland was guaranteed by Napoleon ; but it was manifest that this independence was merely nominal, and that the Seven Provinces were, in fact, reduced to the state of a dependency on the great empire. The new King, however, displayed a laudable regard to the welfare and interests of his subjects, and in several instances counteracted the arbitrary regulations of his brother relative to commercial affairs.

The internal state of France exhibited the uninteresting tranquillity of a country governed by a single will, and the acts and edicts of the Emperor were the only incidents to excite attention. An object constantly before his view was the raising of every member and connection of his family to a station answerable to that dignity which he had himself acquired. He procured the marriage of his step-son Eugene Beauharnois with a princess of Bavaria, and declared him his adopted son, and his successor in the kingdom of Italy. Besides the kingdoms conferred on his brothers, and the dukedom of Berg on his brother-in-law Murat, as already noticed, he conferred the principality of Guastalla on his sister Paulina, and her husband the

Prince Borghese. His uncle Cardinal Fesch was appointed coadjutor to the Archbishop of Ratisbon. One of his decrees established various regulations for the education of the princes of his imperial house, as a matter of high state importance. He gave to his favourite Berthier the principality of Neufchatel; and he created a number of duchies with appropriate revenues in favour of the civil and military officers who had distinguished themselves in his service, transmissible to their direct male descendants in the manner of the feudal tenures under Charlemagne, whom he affected to imitate.

Spain, under the degrading government of the Prince of Peace, acted a very subaltern part in the affairs of Europe. The offended pride of this minister in not being consulted on the negotiations carrying on between France and the courts of England and Russia, and especially the transfer of the Balearic Isles to the Duke of Calabria, without the least communication with the court of Madrid, elicited some tokens of resentment against the French government, and proclamations were issued to rouse the spirit of the nation, while measures were taken for the augmentation of the army. The result of the battle of Jena, however, put an end to these demonstrations, and the minister acceded to a request of Napoleon for the aid of a body of Spanish troops in his northern war.

The state of Portugal, which was void of all means of defence in case the ruler of France should turn his ambitious views upon it, and in which a French interest was prevalent, was regarded with anxiety by the English government; and Lord St. Vincent was sent with a squadron to the Tagus, whilst a considerable land force was assembled and embarked at Plymouth, to be ready if required. A negotiation was also carried on with the court of Lisbon; but the employment of the French arms in the north at the close of the year, having diverted the threatened storm against Portugal, the English squadron returned, and the negotiation was terminated.

The exploits of the British navy during this year, if not so brilliant as at some former periods for want of equal antagonists, were marked by the usual ability and good conduct.

A squadron which left Brest in December 1805, and a division of which, consisting of five ships of the line, two frigates, and a corvette, had sailed to St. Domingo, was fallen in with on January 20th, by Sir J. Duckworth, with seven ships of the line and four frigates, when an action was brought on, which closed with the capture of three of the French ships of the line, the two others being driven on shore and burnt. The frigates and corvette made their escape.

Various other naval actions of minor consequence occurred, in which French ships of war were taken or destroyed, and which occasioned a considerable diminution of their reduced maritime force. Among these may be mentioned the capture of Admiral Linois on his return to France after his long cruize in the Indian seas, with the *Marengo* of 80 guns, and the *Belle Poule* of 40 guns; by Sir J. Borlase Warren; also the capture of four out of five large frigates with troops on board, destined for the West Indies, near Rochefort, by Sir S. Hood.

The principal acquisition made by the British arms in this year, was that of the Dutch settlement of the Cape of Good Hope. An armament of 5000 troops under Sir David Baird, with a naval force commanded by Sir Home Popham, sent out in the preceding year, arrived at Table Bay on January 4th, and a landing being effected with little opposition, the army began its march for Cape Town on the 8th. Having passed the Blue Mountains, a body of about 5000 men, chiefly cavalry, with cannon, was seen posted in the plain to oppose its progress, commanded by the governor of the colony, General Janssens. On a charge by the British troops, they fled with precipitation, and considerable loss; and no other obstacle remaining to the advance of the invaders, the town capitulated on the following day. Janssens, having with the relics of his forces taken post

at a pass leading to Zwellendam, showed a disposition to defend the interior country; but General Beresford being sent against him, he agreed to surrender the whole colony and its dependencies, on the condition that he with his troops should be sent back to Holland, and not considered as prisoners of war. Thus, with little difficulty, possession was obtained of an important colony, which has been lastingly annexed to the British dominion.

Sir Home Popham, who had obtained information of the weakness of the Spanish colonies on the Rio de la Plata, and was animated with the prospect of the commercial and other advantages to be gained in those countries, now ventured, without any authority from the government at home, to carry his whole naval force to South America, and persuaded Sir David Baird so far to concur with him, as to allow a body of troops commanded by General Beresford to accompany the enterprize. Touching at St. Helena, he obtained a small addition of men from the governor of that island, but his whole force, including marines, did not exceed 1600. In the beginning of June he arrived at the mouth of la Plata, and on the 24th, landed the troops at some distance from Buenos Ayres. General Beresford, after dispersing a body of Spaniards who fled at the first fire, proceeded to the city, which he entered without resistance on the 27th. Favourable terms of capitulation were granted to the inhabitants, and the property of individuals on shore was respected; but a great booty was made of the public money and commodities, and of the shipping in the river. Elated with his success, Sir Home Popham sent a circular manifesto to the principal mercantile and manufacturing towns in Great Britain, announcing a whole continent laid open to the British trade; and the intelligence of the capture of Buenos Ayres was received with general rejoicing. This, however, was of short duration. An insurrection being organized in that city, Liniers, a French colonel in the Spanish service, crossed the river in a fog unobserved, with a force, which,

joining that of the city, made an attack on the British troops, and after a sanguinary conflict in the streets and great square, they were obliged to surrender prisoners of war, and were marched up the country, contrary to the articles of capitulation. Sir Home Popham, who at the time was on ship-board, blockaded the river, till the arrival of reinforcements from the Cape of Good Hope enabled him to recommence hostile operations. He attempted without success to gain possession of Montevideo, his ships not being able to approach near enough to batter the walls. A body of troops was then landed near Maldonado, where they encamped, the ships anchoring off the shore; and this was the situation of affairs in la Plata at the close of the year.

The tyrannical conduct of Dessalines, the self-constituted Emperor of Hayti, having excited an insurrection, in which he was killed, Christophe succeeded to the chief power, under no other title than head of the government, in which capacity he issued a proclamation opening the island to the commerce of neutral nations, upon the most liberal principles.

During this year, conferences were held at London for the adjustment of the differences between this country and the United States of America, by Lords Holland and Auckland on the part of Great Britain, and Messrs. Monroe and Pinkney on that of America. The subjects of complaint by the latter were our practice of impressing British seamen on board of their ships in the high seas; the seizure and condemnation of their merchantmen when engaged in a traffic regarded by them as lawful; and our infringement of their maritime rights on their own coasts. These topics being amicably discussed, a treaty was framed by the concurrence of both, but its ratification was refused by the American president, Mr. Jefferson.

In British India, the tranquillity which succeeded the peace with Holkar was disturbed only by an alarming mutiny which broke out among the native troops in the

pay of the Company, at Vellore, on July 10th. One of the causes of this insurrection is stated to have been a military order issued from Madras to change the shape of the Sepoy turban into the resemblance of a helmet, and to prevent the men from bearing upon their foreheads the marks of their cast. With this was joined a report, disseminated with great industry, that the British government had an intention of converting them to christianity by compulsion. The circumstances attending this alarming event were, that in the European barracks at Vellore, four companies of the 69th regiment were surrounded by two battalions of Sepoys, who poured in a heavy fire upon them from every door and window, while the European sentries, the soldiers at the main-guard, and the sick in the hospitals, were put to death, and every person in the officers' houses was massacred. On the arrival of a regiment of dragoons the Sepoys were immediately attacked, 600 of them were cut down, and 200 more were dragged from their lurking places and shot. Of the four European companies 164 were killed besides officers, and many British officers of the native troops were also murdered. A spirit of disaffection manifested itself in other places at the same time, but was prevented from breaking out into open mutiny.

In the latter part of November, Admiral Sir E. Pellew being in the Indian sea in search of a French squadron, passed through the straits of Sunda to Batavia, for the purpose of taking or destroying the shipping in that harbour. This was completely effected with scarcely any loss, the result being the burning and destruction of a frigate of 36 guns and six other armed vessels, and about twenty merchant ships, and the capture of two armed vessels and two merchant ships.

Before the year closed, another war broke out in Europe, the parties being those old antagonists, the Russians and Turks. By a convention between the two powers in 1802, it was agreed that the hospodars of Moldavia and Wallachia, when once nominated by

the Porte, should continue in office for seven years, and on no account be removed without the concurrence of the Russian minister at Constantinople. The successes of Napoleon having determined the Porte to receive a minister from France, General Sebastiani was sent over as ambassador; and the great object of his mission being to break the alliance of Turkey with England and Russia, he laid before the Divan the treaty signed at Paris by D'Oubril, one article of which guaranteed the integrity and independence of the Ottoman empire; which he interpreted as annulling the convention relative to the hospodars. In consequence, these were recalled by the Porte, and others were appointed, without consulting the Russian ambassador, or regarding his protest. This point being gained, Sebastiani next demanded that the passage of the Dardanelles should be shut against all Russian ships of war, and all other Russian vessels carrying troops or ammunition; but the ambassador of that nation threatening to leave Constantinople if the demand were complied with, the proposal was rejected, and the hospodars also were restored. Affairs were in this state, when a Russian army on November 23d entered Moldavia, and took possession of Choczim, Bender, and Jassy. The intelligence of these events occasioned a declaration of war against Russia, by the Porte, December 29th, and preparations were made for carrying it on with vigour by sea and land. Before the close of the year the Russians had made themselves masters of Moldavia, Bessarabia, and Wallachia, and were preparing to cross the Danube and join the revolted Servians. The English had so far espoused the cause of the Russians, that towards the end of November a fleet of three ships of the line and four frigates under Admiral Louis appeared off Tenos, of which one of the line and a frigate passed the Dardanelles, and anchored before Constantinople. The Russian ambassador was taken on board of one of these ships, and in the January following, the British ambassador thought proper to quit Constantinople and go on board of the other.

Of the remaining domestic events, the most important, was the death of Mr. Fox, who was carried off by a dropsy on the 7th of September, leaving his country deprived, in the course of one year, of the two statesmen who stood highest in reputation, not only with their respective parties, but with the nation at large. Their career had indeed been extremely different, one having passed his political life almost entirely in the seat of power, and the other in the ranks of opposition. Their talents and principles also greatly differed; but both acted distinguished parts in the events of their time, and have secured a place among the most memorable characters in British history. Though the loss of Mr. Fox was a severe blow to the ministry of which he was the soul, yet it produced no other immediate political alteration than some change of posts among the existing members of administration. Lord Howick was his successor as secretary in the foreign department, Mr. Grenville became first lord of the admiralty, Mr. Tierney president of the board of controul, Lord Sidmouth president of the council, and Lord Holland lord privy seal. The unexpected measure of a dissolution of parliament after so short a duration was doubtless intended as an appeal to the nation for the support of a ministry which was understood to possess little court favour. Upon the whole, the experiment was not attended with much success. The new parliament assembled on December 19th, and was opened with a speech delivered by commission. The most interesting topic touched in it related to Prussia, and his Majesty's conduct in respect to that power; concerning which it was said, that although its determination of resisting the system of aggrandisement which threatened all Germany was made without any previous concert with his Majesty, yet he had not hesitated to adopt without delay such measures as were best calculated to unite their councils against the common enemy, but that the rapid course of subsequent events had prevented their execution. This subject was discussed at length in the debates on the

usual addresses consequent upon the speech, and in which a very long amendment moved by Mr. Canning censured the conduct of ministers on this and various other heads. The addresses were however carried without a division, and parliament soon after adjourned for the holidays.

A. D. 1807.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 47 & 48.
 ————— PARLIAMENT 1 & 1.

Discussion on the late Negotiation with France. — Lord Henry Petty's Plan of Finance. — Bill passed for the final Abolition of the Slave-Trade. — Lord Howick's Motion for a Bill to permit Persons to serve in the Army and Navy without a religious Test. — The Motion dropt, and a Change in the Administration. — Its Causes stated. — New Ministry. — Debate on granting the Duchy of Lancaster for Life. — Motions against the Ministers defeated. — Parliament prorogued, and remarkable Speech from the Throne. — General Election — "No Popery" cry renewed. — Address to the Public from the English Catholics. — Campaign between the French and Russians in Poland. — Battle of Eylau. — Dantzick surrendered to the French. — Armistice between the latter and the Swedes. — Battles of Heilsberg and Friedland. — Armistice followed by the Treaty of Tilsit between the Russians and Prussians and the French. — Success of the French against the Swedes — Stralsund and Rugen taken. — Hostilities between England and the Ottoman Porte. — British Fleet passes the Dardanelles. — Its Operations and Return. — Expedition against Alexandria under General Fraser — Its Incidents and final Result. — Capture of Curaçao — Montevideo carried by storm under Sir S. Auchmuty. — General Whitelock's Failure at Buenos Ayres. — New Parliament assembled. — Royal Speech. — Bills for augmenting the Army. — Bill for the Suppression of Insurrections in Ireland. — Parliament prorogued. — British Order of Council in Opposition to Buonaparte's Berlin Decree. — Condition of Denmark. — Grand Expedition sent from England to Copenhagen — Demand of surrendering the Danish Fleet refused. — Bombardment of Copenhagen, and the Fleet given up. — Its Consequences. — Heligoland taken. — Affairs of the Coast of Spain. — French take Possession of Portugal, the Prince Regent of which sails to Brazil. — Disputes between England and America — Rencontre of the Ships Leopard and Chesapeake. — Embargo laid in the United States. — Revolution in the Turkish Throne. — East Indies. — Capture of the Danish West India Islands.

WHEN parliament had re-assembled on January 2d Lord Grenville opened in the House of Lords the con-

sideration of the late negotiation with France. He began with observing, that in his opinion the only proper basis of a peace between the two countries was that of actual possession; since England being a great maritime and colonial, and France a great continental power, there could be no cession between them that would conduce to their mutual advantage. But though this was the proper basis, it did not follow that the negotiation was to exclude the discussion of equivalents to be given for certain cessions to be agreed on, which was the more necessary when it involved the interests of our allies. Then he divided into two classes; those to whom we were bound by treaty, and those to whom we were bound by circumstances which had occurred during the war. With respect to both these classes he made various observations; and having then described the different stages of the negotiation, he moved an address to the King, the tenor of which was to express their approbation of his attempts to restore the blessings of peace, and their assurances of support in such measures as might yet be found necessary, either for the restoration of peace, or the prosecution of the war. A similar motion and introductory speech were made in the House of Commons by Lord Howick. Of the long succeeding debates in both Houses, it is unnecessary here to give an account, as in both, the address was carried without opposition, and the whole controversy turned upon the comparative merits or demerits of the late and present ministries. It may however be interesting to note the sentiment concerning peace declared by one who was soon to be at the head of another ministry. Mr. Perceval blamed the ministers for not having sooner put an end to the negotiation, and avowed his firm conviction that no peace could take place with France, at least such a peace as would be worthy of the acceptance of this country, so long as the force and councils of that country were directed by two such men as Talleyrand and Buonaparte.

On January 29th the House of Commons being in a committee of finance, Lord Henry Petty, after stating

the amount of the requisite supplies at 40,327,000*l.* for England, and 5,814,000*l.* for Ireland, brought in a new plan for providing for the loan of the present year, and for such as would be wanted during many successive years of war, without new taxes. The fundamental principles of this system were the following. The flourishing state of the permanent revenue, the great produce of the war taxes, the accumulating amount of the sinking fund, and the approaching expiration of certain annuities granted as payment of former loans, were its groundwork; the continuance, therefore, of the present produce of the existing taxes was assumed as the base of the calculations. The war loans of the present and the two subsequent years were stated at 12 millions annually; that of 1810 at 14 millions; and those of the ten following years, should the war continue so long, at 16 millions. As provision for all these loans, the war taxes were to be pledged at the rate of 10 per cent. for each loan, viz, 5 per cent. for interest, and the remainder as an accumulating sinking fund to pay off the principal. This appropriation of the war taxes would necessarily take off that amount of the applicable revenue of each year; but the deficiency was to be made good by *supplementary loans*, upon the established system of a sinking fund of one per cent. on the nominal capital. The new burdens that this may create will not, however, take place till after 1810, for it is calculated that until that period the expiring annuities will provide for the interest of such loans: so long, therefore, the war may be carried on without additional taxes. After considerable discussions, and the production of other financial plans, the resolutions moved by Lord H. Petty were reported and agreed to. One objection made to his system may be mentioned, as it has been so fully confirmed by the result; namely, that the war expences during the whole period were supposed not to exceed 32 millions annually, whereas by means of subsidies, depreciation of money, and other causes, the amount has vastly surpassed that sum.

This year was rendered memorable by the total abolition of the slave trade. Lord Grenville, on January 2d brought into the House of Lords a bill for this purpose. Its progress was accompanied by debates in which all the arguments already employed on the subject were repeated; but although the opponents of the measure were as decided as ever, their number was much diminished, the second reading being carried by 100 against 36. When the report was brought up, it was stated by the noble mover that it had been thought advisable to fix the same period for all the clauses of the bill, namely the 1st of May ensuing, and to introduce a proviso allowing all slave-vessels which had cleared out from this country for Africa previously to that day, to complete their cargoes and trade with them to the West Indies till the 1st of January 1808, when the trade was to be finally abolished. The bill having passed the Lords, was brought to the Commons on February 3d, when the motion for reading it was made by Lord Howick. In that House counsel was heard against the abolition, for the merchants and planters of Jamaica, the African merchants of London, the corporation and merchants of Liverpool, and the merchants and planters of Trinidad. The division on the question of going into a committee was carried in the affirmative by the great majority of 283 to 16. The opposers still adhered to their objections, but the bill, with some amendments, passed that House on March 16th, the amendments were agreed to by the Lords on the 22d, and it received the royal assent on the 25th.

On March 5th Lord Howick made a motion in the House of Commons which was eventually the cause of the dissolution of the ministry. It was for leave to bring in a bill for securing to all his Majesty's subjects the privilege of serving in the army or navy upon their taking an oath prescribed by act of parliament; and for leaving to them, as far as convenience would admit, the free exercise of their respective religions. His lordship stated, that what had particularly drawn the

attention of government to the subject was the strange anomaly existing in consequence of the Irish act of 1793, by which the Roman Catholics in that country were enabled to hold commissions in the army, and to attain to any rank except those of commander-in-chief, master-general of the ordnance, or general on the staff; but if any of these should be brought to serve in this country they would be disqualified by law from remaining in the service. The motion being made, Mr. Perceval rose to oppose it, as being in his opinion one of the most dangerous measures that had ever been submitted to the judgment of the legislature. He considered its tendency to be that of abolishing all those tests which the wisdom of our ancestors had thought it necessary to interpose in defence of our religious establishment; and he expressed the strongest apprehensions of that principle of innovation which was stealing in by degrees, and continually growing stronger and stronger. A conversation then followed in which this gentleman's apprehensions were treated on one side as well-grounded, on the other as weak and chimerical, and the bill was read for the first time.

The motion for a second reading being postponed to the 18th, Lord Howick on the preceding day announced that, for reasons not then to be explained, the order for the second reading of the bill in question would be dropt. On March 25th a change in the administration took place; and on the 26th Lord Grenville in the House of Lords, and Lord Howick in that of the Commons, related in detail the circumstances which had occasioned that event, and stated the principles on which they were friendly to the bill for granting relief to the Catholics and other dissenters. With respect to the Protestant dissenters in Ireland, by a law passed in that country in 1778, they were there admissible to employments of every kind civil and military, without any restriction, whereas in Great Britain they could hold no place without taking the sacramental test; and if the Catholics were admitted to any rank in the army, the former might complain of the inequality. As to the

catholics, a draft of a dispatch to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland relative to the communications to be had with them was submitted to his Majesty by the ministers, which received his approbation, and authority was given to inform the heads of the catholics that the army and navy would be opened to them. Doubts, however, having been entertained by some members of the cabinet as to the extent of the proposed measure; and his Majesty having been apprized that this was far greater than he had conceived it to be; he expressed to Lord Grenville his decided objection to it. The ministers then attempted to modify it, so as to reconcile it to his Majesty's wishes, without destroying its essence; but failing in this attempt, they determined to drop it altogether. At the same time, in vindication of their own character, Lord Grenville and Lord Howick resolved to insert in the proceedings of the cabinet a minute reserving to them, 1st, the liberty of delivering their opinions on the catholic question; 2d, that of submitting this question, or any subject connected with it, from time to time, to his Majesty's decision. But they were called upon, not only to withdraw the latter reservation, but to substitute a written obligation never again to bring forward the measure, or to propose any thing connected with the catholic question. Conceiving that such an engagement would be inconsistent with their duty, and having communicated their sentiments to the King, they received, on the next day, an intimation from his Majesty that he must seek for other ministers.

Both Houses of Parliament then adjourned to the 8th of April.

In the new ministry the principal posts were arranged in the following manner: Earl of Westmorland, lord privy seal; Duke of Portland, first lord of the treasury; Mr. Canning, secretary of state for foreign affairs; Lord Hawkesbury, for the home department; Lord Castlereagh, for war and colonies; Lord Eldon, lord chancellor; Mr. Perceval, chancellor of the exchequer; Earl of Chatham, master of the ordnance; Earl Cam-

den, president of the council; Lord Mulgrave, first lord of the admiralty.

While the change of the ministry was in agitation, a report having prevailed, that in order to induce Mr. Perceval to take a share in it there was a design of conferring on him the chancellorship of the duchy of Lancaster for life, Mr. Martin made a motion, on March 9th, to address the king that he would be pleased not to grant any place in the duchy of Lancaster, or elsewhere, for life, which had hitherto been held during his Majesty's pleasure, which, after a debate, was carried by 218 against 115. As soon as parliament met again after the adjournment, his Majesty's answer to the address was reported to the House of Commons, to the effect that he would take the subject into his most serious consideration, and in the meantime informed them, that in a grant now to be made of the office of chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, the office should be conferred only during his royal pleasure.

On April 9th, a trial of strength was made between the old and the new ministry by a motion of Mr. Brand's, "That it was contrary to the first duties of the confidential servants of the crown to restrain themselves by any pledge, express or implied, from offering to the King any advice that the course of circumstances might render necessary for the welfare and security of any part of his Majesty's extensive empire." A long and very eager debate ensued, a great part of which deviated from the actual question, and turned upon the concessions claimed for the catholics. The motion was combated by the amendment of Mr. Osborne for reading the other orders of the day, and on a division, there appeared, for the amendment, 258, for the original motion 226, thus giving a majority of 32 in favour of ministers. A similar motion introduced to the House of Lords by the Marquis of Stafford was encountered by Lord Boringdon's motion for adjournment, and the latter was carried by 171 to 90. A motion in the House of Commons by Mr. Lyttleton,

- “That the House, considering a firm and efficient administration as indispensibly necessary in the present important crisis of public affairs, had seen with the deepest regret, the late change in his Majesty’s council,” was defeated by a vote for passing to the order of the day, the numbers being 214 to 198.

Parliament was prorogued on April 27th, in a speech delivered by commission, which was rendered remarkable by his Majesty’s declaration of his purpose “to recur to the sense of his people while the events which had recently taken place were yet fresh in their recollection” — and by the subjoined reasons for this measure. These were, that his Majesty felt, that in resorting to it, he demonstrated in the most unequivocal manner his own conscientious persuasion of the rectitude of the motives upon which he had acted, and gave his people the best opportunity of testifying their determination to support him in every exercise of the prerogatives of the crown conformable to the sacred obligations under which they are held, and conducive to the welfare of the kingdom, and the security of the constitution. The speech afterwards adverted to “the divisions naturally and unavoidably excited by the late unfortunate and uncalled for agitation of a question so interesting to the feelings and opinions of his people.”

This appearance of the King as a kind of antagonist to his late ministers, and as personally concerned in a question of policy, could not fail of giving unusual activity to the party spirit in the nation, especially as the topic of dispute addressed itself to those religious feelings which operate so strongly on the national character. The corporation of London, who regarded the dismissal of the ministers under that impression, presented an address to his Majesty on April 22d, in which they expressed “their warmest and most unfeigned gratitude for the dignified and decided support and protection given by him to the Protestant reformed religion as by law established, and for the firm and constitutional exercise of his royal prerogative to preserve the independence of the crown.” It was there-

fore not surprising that on the general election which succeeded the dissolution of parliament, the cry of *no popery*, and *the danger of the church* was in some places made use of for political purposes, and was found capable of inflaming the minds of the multitude; though in the metropolis, where there might have been danger of reviving the dreadful outrages of 1780, the effect was inconsiderable. The most respectable of the English Roman Catholics very properly at this period published an address to their protestant fellow-subjects, laying before them unanswerable documents to prove the purity of their principles in respect to their King and country, and entreating them to declare, when they had perused these documents, "whether his Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects maintain a single tenet inconsistent with the purest loyalty, or interfering in the slightest degree with any one duty which an Englishman owes to his God, his King, or his country."

The military operations in the war between the French and Russians underwent scarcely any suspension on account of the winter. The Russian main army commanded by General Bennigsen, with its Prussian auxiliaries, in the latter part of January was posted on the Pregel near Königsberg, and the general's plan was to turn the left flank of the French army, and extending along the Vistula to Graudentz and Thorn, to reduce the French to the necessity of evacuating Poland. By a rapid advance, he disconcerted an attempt of the latter to surprize Königsberg, and on the 25th, attacked a detachment under the Prince of Ponte-Corvo (Bernadotte) at Mohringen. The accounts of this action by the two parties (as those of all others) differ so widely, that no consistent relation can be framed from them; but the immediate result was, that the French retired 60 miles from the field of battle. At the end of January, Napoleon left Warsaw, and collected the flower of his troops for the purpose of an attack on the center of the Russian army. Marching with about 120,000 men, after several partial actions,

he came in front of the Russian main force, advantageously posted at Eylau, on February 7th. Upon that and the following day a very bloody engagement took place, at the close of which each side claimed the victory; but the conclusion was that the Russians retired beyond the Pregel, and the French, who remained some days on the field of battle, fell back on the Vistula, without making an attempt on Königsberg, as the Emperor had signified an intention of doing.

After the French army had for some time been refreshed in winter-quarters, and several skirmishes had succeeded, it was resolved to push the siege of Dantzic with vigour, and the grand army was posted so as to cover the besiegers. Its relief being determined on by the Russians, whose army had been reinforced, a general attack was made on the French lines, which was repulsed; and on May 19th, the commander, General Kalkreuth, capitulated on the condition that the garrison should march out with the honours of war, and be conducted to the Prussian advanced posts, after engaging not to serve against the French or their allies for a year from the capitulation. The siege of Stralsund, which had been undertaken in February by Marshal Mortier, was abandoned on the approach of a Swedish army under Baron Von Essen, governor of Swedish Pomerania, and that province was evacuated by the French; but the Swedes having inconsiderately crossed the river Peene, they were attacked on April 16th, by Mortier, and several of their divisions being defeated, they passed the river after sustaining great loss. The consequence was the concluding of an armistice on conditions favourable to the French. The King of Sweden soon after arrived at Stralsund, where he was met by the English General Clinton, who brought assurances of speedy succours of every kind.

After the reduction of Dantzic, a proposal for peace was made by Napoleon to the Emperor of Russia, which proved ineffectual; and on June 5th and 6th, the united Russian and Prussian troops made an attack on the French army at different points of their line,

which was repulsed with loss. Napoleon then assumed the command, and a very active campaign of ten days ensued, in which were fought the battles of Heilsberg and Friedland, both to the advantage of the French, and the latter, one of their most considerable victories. The Russians continually retreated till they crossed the Niemen; and Napoleon, on June 19th, entered Tilsit, a town on the bank of that river. An armistice was there agreed upon on the 22d, between the French and Russians, to be followed by a similar armistice with the Prussians, the Niemen and Narew being the boundary between the two armies. To the King of Prussia at this time nothing was remaining but Memel and its territory. An interview took place between the two Emperors on a raft upon the Niemen, June 25th, attended with every expression of mutual regard: both armies indulged in social festivity; and on July 7th, a peace was concluded at Tilsit between these two great potentates. The treaty related entirely to their allies, as they had no differences to adjust with respect to one another. To Prussia was restored the conquests made upon her in Germany and Silesia, with a few exceptions. The greater part of those provinces in Poland, which had been annexed to Prussia in the partitions of that country, were conferred on the King of Saxony (as that Elector was now entitled), under the name of the Duchy of Warsaw, to be governed according to a new constitution framed on the model of that of France; and a road for a military communication between this duchy and Saxony was allowed through the Prussian territory. Dantzic, with a territory of two leagues round it, was restored to its independence under the protection of the Kings of Prussia and Saxony; and the navigation of the Vistula was declared free. The Dukes of Saxe-Coburg, Oldenburg, and Mecklenburg Schwerin, were restored to their possessions, but the ports in Oldenburg were to be garrisoned by French troops till peace between France and England; and till that period, all the ports in Prussia were to be shut against the English. The Emperor of Russia acknow-

ledged the confederation of the Rhine, and the Buonaparte Kings of Naples, Holland, and Westphalia, which last kingdom was then marked out for Napoleon's youngest brother Jerome. Hostilities were immediately to cease between Russia and the Porte, and the Russian troops were to be withdrawn from Moldavia; but that province was not to be occupied by Turkish troops till after a definitive treaty between the two powers, for the effecting of which Russia accepted the mediation of France.

The King of Sweden was now the only continental potentate who resisted the arms of the French conqueror. Having in person taken the command of his troops in Pomerania, he declared his intention of acknowledging only the first stipulated armistice of ten days, and in the meantime he employed himself in improving the fortifications of Stralsund, and erecting new works on the isle of Rugen. Marshal Brune, on the expiration of the armistice, advanced with his army, and made an attack upon the Swedes in their entrenchments, which were carried after a brave and sanguinary resistance, and the Swedes retired under the walls of Stralsund. That city was evacuated by the King on the night between the 19th and 20th of August, who landed his troops on Rugen. They capitulated early in September, in which capitulation were included all the Baltic islands on the German coast.

The ascendancy acquired by the French minister at the Ottoman court, who had insisted upon its shutting the passages of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus against the English and Russian ships, occasioned the British government, at the beginning of this year, to send a fleet of seven ships of the line besides frigates and bomb-vessels, under the command of Sir J. Duckworth, with orders to force the passage of the Dardanelles, and, if certain terms of agreement were not acceded to by the Porte, to bombard Constantinople. The fleet passed the outer castles of the straits on February 19th, at which time a Turkish squadron consisting of a 64 gun ship, four frigates, and several corvettes,

was lying at anchor within the inner castles. Sir Sidney Smith was then sent with three ships of the line to destroy the Turkish ships, if any opposition were made to their further passage; and the inner castles having opened a heavy fire on the fleet, which was returned with great effect, Sir Sidney executed his orders by driving on shore and burning the Turkish squadron. The guns of a strong battery on the land were at the same time spiked by a detachment of marines. The English fleet then anchored near the Prince's isles, about eight miles from Constantinople, whence a correspondence was for some time carried on between Mr. Arbuthnot, the British minister, who was on board the fleet, and Admiral Duckworth, on one part, and the Turkish ministers on the other. It was required by the former, as a condition of peace and amity, that all the ships of war belonging to the Porte, with the necessary stores and provision, should be delivered to the English commander, in which case he would offer no injury to the city, but immediately withdraw his squadron beyond the Dardanelles. Such a proposal was not likely to be acquiesced in, and measures were adopted with the greatest activity for defending the city by numerous batteries, and fitting all the Turkish men of war in the canal for action. These preparations, and the state of the weather, rendered a nearer approach to Constantinople scarcely practicable; and indeed the mischief that might have been done by a bombardment of this fine capital could not have answered any good political purpose; Sir J. Duckworth therefore hastened his departure before the passage of the Dardanelles should be either entirely closed, or rendered much more hazardous. On March 1st, he repassed the castles, which saluted him with the fire of vast blocks of marble, one of which, weighing 800 pounds, cut in two the main-mast of the Windsor man of war. This expedition cost about 250 men killed and wounded, and conferred no advantage on the nation, and little credit on the advisers.

The failure on this occasion appeared to be in some measure compensated by the success of an attempt against another seat of the Ottoman power. On the 5th of March a force of about 5000 men was sent from Messina under the command of Major-General Mackenzie Frazer, of which, on the 16th, a part anchored to the westward of Alexandria. The English consul residing in this place advised the general not to delay landing the troops with him, though many of the transports had not yet arrived, because the French consul was endeavouring to procure the admission of a body of Albanians to defend the town. This was accordingly put in execution on the 18th, and the troops having taken possession of the castle of Aboukir, and the cut between lakes Maadie and Marcotis, Alexandria capitulated on the 20th. By the terms, the vessels belonging to the government, and all public property, were given up to the British; the crews were to be sent to a Turkish port, but under condition not to serve against England or its allies till exchanged. The loss by which this success was obtained was inconsiderable; and on the day of the treaty, the missing transports arrived, and two days after, Sir J. Duckworth's squadron.

There being danger of a want of provisions at Alexandria unless Rosetta and Rhamanie were in the British occupation, General Fraser on the 27th detached a body of about 1500 men to take possession of the former; but their commander incautiously marching into the town without previous examination, the troops received so brisk a fire from roofs and windows, that after the loss of 300 killed and wounded, they found it necessary to retreat to Aboukir. The want becoming more urgent, another corps of about 2500 under General Stewart was sent to reduce Rosetta. The summons to surrender being disregarded, they began to erect batteries against the place; and as a succour of Mamelukes was expected by the British, Lieutenant-Colonel Macleod was detached to seize a post in order to facilitate their junction. Many days passed in fruitless expectation; at length a great number of vessels were descried sailing down the

Nile, which were not doubted to contain a reinforcement to the enemy from Cairo. Orders were immediately sent to Colonel Macleod to return from his position, but they were unfortunately intercepted, and his detachment was completely cut off. General Stewart retreated fighting all the way to Alexandria; and this attempt on Rosetta cost 1000 men in killed, wounded, and missing. A formidable force of the enemy now approaching Alexandria, the inhabitants of which also were disaffected, a flag of truce was sent by General Fraser, offering immediately to quit Egypt with his army on condition that the British prisoners should be liberated, which was readily agreed to; and the troops sailed for Sicily on the 23d of September.

On the first day of this year, the Dutch island of Cúraçoa was taken by a squadron of four frigates under the command of Captain Brisbane, detached from the fleet of Admiral Dacres. The harbour was defended by regular fortifications, of which, Fort Amsterdam alone mounted 66 pieces of cannon; and across the entrance were moored two frigates and two armed schooners. The assailants, however, in a very short time, and with an inconsiderable loss, carried the forts by storm, and the shipping by boarding, and a capitulation yielded the island to his Britannic Majesty, the garrison and crews of the ships of war remaining prisoners of war.

In the autumn of the preceding year an armament was sent to the Rio de la Plata, under the command of Sir S. Auchmuty, and convoyed by Sir C. Stirling, who was appointed to supersede Sir H. Popham as naval commander on that station. On arriving at Maldonado, the general resolved to make an attempt on Montevideo, as the only place on the river which could be assailed with probabic advantage, and on January 18th the troops were landed near that town. A body of about 6,000 men marched out on the following day to attack them, but were repulsed with great slaughter, and the British force afterwards commenced the siege of the place. The works were found strong, and were ably defended;

but a practicable breach being made on February 2d, it was resolved no longer to delay an assault. This was effected before day break on the next morning; and after a severe action, in which about 560 of the assailants were killed or wounded, and more than double the number of the defenders, every thing was carried except the citadel, which soon surrendered. The general, in his narrative, adds a circumstance highly to the credit of his troops, as well as of their commander, that "early in the morning the town was quiet, and the women were peaceably walking the streets." The admiral co-operated in this brilliant achievement, having landed 800 marines to assist the land forces, and arranged his ships so as to prevent any escape from the harbour. The prizes taken at Montevideo were 57 West-Indiamen and merchantmen, besides several gun-boats, and armed vessels.

Before intelligence had been received in England of the re-capture of Buenos Ayres by the Spaniards, it had been resolved by the ministry to send out an expedition for the reduction of the province of Chili. For this purpose a force of 4,200 men was placed under the command of Brigadier-General Crawford, which sailed at the end of October 1806, accompanied by a naval force under Admiral Murray. The intelligence above mentioned occasioned an order to be afterwards dispatched for the expedition to change its object, and proceed to the river la Plata. Being overtaken at the Cape of Good Hope, it sailed accordingly for the new destination, and arrived in the river on June 14th, when the conjoined British force in that quarter amounted to 9,500 men. General Whitelocke, who had in the meantime been nominated to the supreme command of the forces in South America, left England in March, taking with him an additional force of 1680 men, the service expected from him being the reduction of the whole province of Buenos Ayres. At this time two parties existed in the city of that name; one devoted entirely to the Spanish government; the other entertaining views of throwing off the yoke of their mother country, and

erecting an independent state. The latter were thought prepared to join the British, if a promise was made them of securing their independence, but as there was a probability that the restoration of the province would be made a condition of peace with Spain, there was an obvious difficulty in treating with this party.

General Whitelocke arrived in la Plata in May, and took the command of the troops. On June 28th the united force, to the number of 7,800 men, was landed about 30 miles to the east of Buenos Ayres, and after a fatiguing march, the different divisions assembled in the suburbs of that city, which was nearly invested. On the morning of July 5th a general attack was ordered, each corps to enter by the streets opposite to it, and all with unloaded musquets. The greatest intrepidity was displayed in the arduous attempt to execute this plan, which was so far successful, that two strong posts were gained in the town, but at the expence of 2,500 men in killed, wounded, and prisoners; the fire from the tops of houses, and every advantageous position, upon the exposed and defenceless troops, having been most murderous. On the following morning General Linieres sent a letter to the English commander, offering to give up all the prisoners taken in this action, and also all those made with General Beresford, if he would desist from any further attack, and withdraw the British armament from la Plata; intimating, that such was the exasperation of the populace, that he could not answer for the safety of the prisoners were offensive measures persisted in. Whitelocke, influenced (he says) by this consideration, and reflecting on the little advantage to be obtained from the possession of a country absolutely hostile, agreed to the proposal. This termination of an enterprise from which much had been expected occasioned great dissatisfaction, and the general, on his return, was tried by a court martial, whose sentence was "that he be cashiered, and declared totally unfit and unworthy to serve his Majesty in any military capacity whatever;" a decision confirmed by the King, and approved by the

public. It was thought, however, that a censure was not less merited by those who had recommended for such an employment, a man whose military reputation appears never to have entitled him to a trust of that importance.

The new parliament assembled on June 22d, when Mr. Abbot was unanimously re-elected speaker of the House of Commons. The parties of the late and present ministers mustered in all their strength; and 505 members of the Commons, the greatest number ever known on the occasion, attended the delivery, by commission, of the King's speech. The topic with which this composition commenced, was that appeal to the people, which his Majesty had made by the dissolution of the last parliament, with respect to the differences between him and his former ministers; and the King acquaints the parliament, that since the events which led to the dissolution, "he has received, in numerous addresses from his subjects, the warmest assurances of their affectionate attachment to his person and government, and of their firm resolution to support him, in maintaining the just rights of his crown, and the true principles of the constitution." His Majesty further expresses his confidence that he shall experience, in all the deliberations of parliament, a determination to afford him an equally loyal, zealous, and affectionate support. As this might be regarded as a kind of manifesto against a party in the state, it was not to be expected that the corresponding addresses would pass with unanimity. Accordingly, in the House of Lords, Lord Fortescue moved an amendment strongly censuring the measure of the dissolution of parliament, and the reasons which the ministers had offered for its justification, which, upon a division, was rejected by a majority of 160 to 67. A similar amendment moved in the House of Commons, by Lord Howick, was negatived by 350 to 155; and thus the solidity of the present administration was fully established.

The first public measure of importance was the introduction, by Lord Castlereagh, of a new military plan,

the purpose of which was to augment the regular army from the militia, and to supply the deficiencies accruing to the latter, by a supplementary militia. This design was to be effected by two bills, the operation of which would add at least 38,000 men to the gross military force of the country, and 28,000 to the regular army. His lordship accordingly moved the bills which, after long debates, were passed in both Houses.

The state of Ireland became a topic of parliamentary discussion, in consequence of a bill moved by Sir Arthur Wellesley, then secretary to the lord lieutenant, for the suppression of insurrection in that country, and to prevent the disturbance of the peace. The provisions were to be the same with those of the insurrection act of 1796, with respect to the power of the lord-lieutenant to proclaim disturbed counties, and the authority of the magistrates to arrest persons found out of their dwellings between sun-set and sun-rise, but with the requirement that persons so arrested should be tried at the quarter sessions by the magistrates and assistant barristers, with the addition of a King's counsel sent for the purpose. Another bill was to prevent improper persons from keeping arms by certain regulations. Both these passed into laws, though not without considerable opposition. Their necessity was admitted by Mr. Grattan.

A bill having been introduced for preventing the grant of offices in reversion, it was rejected in the House of Lords by 15 to 9.

Parliament was prorogued on the 2d of August. The speech on this occasion, delivered by commission, did not conceal the formidable difficulties and dangers which this country had to encounter, but expressed a confidence in the parliament and people, in enabling his Majesty "to maintain against any undue pretensions, and hostile confederacy, those just rights which, as essential to the honour of his crown, and the true interests of his people, he was determined never to surrender." These words probably alluded to a determination of the new ministry relative to an expedition,

the result of which forms a very interesting subject of narration for the remainder of the year.

The plan of the French Emperor for ruining the European commerce of England, and subverting her naval superiority, was too openly avowed to leave any doubt that he would employ all possible means for bringing it to effect; and experience had shewn that neutral rights stood for nothing when opposed to the execution of his designs. His Berlin decree, by which the whole of Great Britain was so extravagantly declared in a state of blockade, was in fact a declaration of hostility against every maritime power in connection with her, and by some of these, representations were made against it. A British order of council issued on January 7th by way of counteraction, and which prohibited the trade of neutrals from any one port to another, both being in the possession of France or her allies, added to the restraints on neutral commerce, and left all inferior powers in a state of necessary submission to the orders of one or both of the belligerents. Denmark, one of the principal of these, too much habituated to independence to make a voluntary sacrifice of it, but too weak and too much exposed to assert it with effect, was reduced to a distressing dilemma. Having formerly taken a part in the maritime confederacy against the claims of England, and severely suffered from it, she was by no means inclined to a new quarrel with that power; on the other hand, the immense preponderancy of France by land, and the presence of her armies in the north of Europe, to which all the continental territory of Denmark lay open, rendered any resistance to the will of her ruler extremely hazardous. It does not appear ascertained how far the immediate designs of Napoleon against the Danish independence extended, or to what degree the government of Denmark was prepared to acquiesce in his demands; but the English ministers were persuaded that sooner or later Denmark must be absorbed in that vortex of domination from which Russia and Prussia had been unable to extricate

themselves. Vigorous measures were therefore resolved upon to render this termination as little injurious as possible to this country.

In the summer a powerful expedition was secretly fitted out, consisting of an army of 20,000 men, and a fleet of 27 sail of the line, with a great number of smaller armed ships and bomb vessels. A division of this fleet, under the command of Commodore Keats, was first detached to the Great Belt, with orders to allow no military force whatever to enter the Island of Zealand. The main body of the fleet, commanded by Admiral Gambier, with the army, proceeded to the Sound, where the latter was reinforced by the troops which had acted as auxiliaries to the King of Sweden at Stralsund under Lord Cathcart, who was appointed to the chief command. Mr. Jackson was at the same time sent to the Court of Denmark, for the purpose of an amicable negotiation, and the condition upon which he was to insist, as its essential basis, was the delivery of the Danish fleet to the British Admiral, on a solemn assurance that it should be restored at the conclusion of the war between Great Britain and France. On his proceeding to Copenhagen, August 12th, he found not a gun mounted on its ramparts, nor any assemblage of troops in Zealand. The subject of his mission was communicated to the Prince Regent of Denmark, and some efforts were made to protract the negotiation, obviously to give time for making defensive preparations. The minister, however, brought it to a close by pressing the ultimatum, and it will not be thought extraordinary that the demand respecting the fleet was rejected. He then returned to the British squadron, and informed the commanders that nothing was left but coercive measures.

On August 16th the troops were landed on Zealand without opposition, and having easily repulsed some attempts for retarding their advance, closely invested Copenhagen on the land side, and erected batteries. These, together with the bomb-vessels, opened a tremendous fire upon the town on the night of September

2d, which soon produced an apparently general conflagration. "The flames (says Admiral Gambier in his dispatch) were kept up in different places till the evening of the 5th, when a considerable part of the city being consumed, and the conflagration threatening the speedy destruction of the rest, the general commanding the garrison sent out a flag of truce, desiring an armistice, to afford time to treat for a capitulation." The articles being settled on the 8th, the British army took possession of the citadel and dock yards; and the Admiral immediately began rigging the ships to be delivered up, for their conveyance with their stores and whole equipment to England. They were in number 18 ships of the line, 15 frigates, and some brigs and gunboats. It was stipulated that after the removal of the ships, or six weeks after the capitulation, the British troops should deliver up the citadel of Copenhagen, and evacuate Zealand; that all property public and private, with the exception of the shipping and stores above-mentioned, should be respected, and all prisoners mutually given up; and expectations appear to have been entertained on our part that the harmony between the two nations would be restored; but the wound which had been inflicted was too severe to be thus healed. The act of involving in flames the capital of a country at a time of profound peace, and carrying off its whole maritime force without any ground of complaint, bore the appearance of such a flagrant violation of right and justice, that it was loudly exclaimed against, not only by the sufferers, but by all Europe, which could not, or would not, enter into the reasons of justification held forth by the British government. How it was considered at home will appear in the parliamentary transactions of the subsequent year; and its political consequences alone will now be briefly noted.

Mr. Jackson was absolutely refused landing upon Danish ground to renew the negotiation which had been thus broken off; and the British fleet had scarcely quitted the road of Copenhagen, before a number of

small armed vessels came out to make depredations on the English commerce, in which they obtained considerable success. British property was confiscated with the greatest rigour, and all correspondence with Great Britain was prohibited under severe penalties. The Emperor of Russia, in a declaration issued on October 31st, dwelt on the aggression upon Denmark as a cause for breaking off all connection with England, and renewing the armed neutrality; and he engaged never to re-establish concord between the two nations till satisfaction should be given to Denmark. The enmity of Napoleon to this country could not be augmented; but in a manifesto he represented in the most odious light the assault on Copenhagen; and by new edicts, carried to the utmost extremity his violent measures for excluding all British commerce from the countries subjected to his authority.

At this period, when every port in the north seas, those of Sweden excepted, was shut against the traffic of this country, the acquisition of the small island of Heligoland was an advantage of considerable importance. It surrendered by capitulation on September 4th, to Vice-Admiral Russel, and thus afforded a safe receptacle at all seasons for small vessels, and an entrance to all the rivers of that part of Germany.

The weak court of Spain was in this year hastening to that state of internal dissention and degradation which soon after occasioned the deposition of the royal family. On October 30th, an extraordinary decree (or rather manifesto) was issued by the King of Spain, acquainting his subjects that his life and crown had been brought into danger by a conspiracy of which his son was the author, whom, in consequence, he had caused to be arrested. The ground of this charge was a clandestine correspondence carried on by the Prince of Asturias with the French Emperor, on the subject of a marriage between him and a princess of the Buonaparte family. Through the interposition of the Prince of Peace (Godoy) a reconciliation was effected, the Prince of Asturias having been induced to write penitential

letters to his father and mother, in which, however, there was no confession of a heinous design. Soon after, a treaty was concluded between the sovereigns of France and Spain, the object of which was a partition of the kingdom of Portugal, but in return for the portion to devolve on the King of Etruria, his kingdom of Tuscany was to be ceded to the King of Italy (Napoleon). By a secret convention, French troops were to be admitted into Spain, and others were to be assembled at Bayonne, to assist in the conquest of Portugal; and thus a handle was given for placing Spain at the disposal of the French Emperor.

After the peace of Tilsit, Napoleon, fearing no opposition to his farther projects towards the supremacy of Europe, demanded of the court of Portugal that it should shut the ports of that country against England, detain all the English residing in Portugal, and confiscate all British property; and denounced war in case of refusal. Without waiting for a reply, he ordered the detention of all the Portuguese merchant vessels in the French ports. The Prince of Portugal, sensible of his weakness, wished to temporize by a limited compliance, and in the meantime made preparations for a departure to Brazil. The measures he was obliged to adopt against the British trade and property caused the English ambassador, Lord Strangford, to make a remonstrance against the conduct of the Portuguese government, and to go on board the British squadron at the mouth of the Tagus, under the command of Sir Sidney Smith. The intercourse between the ambassador and the government was afterwards renewed; and a French army having now entered Portugal, the prince, on November 29th, with all the royal family, sailed from the Tagus with his fleet of eight sail of the line and four frigates, and proceeded for Rio Janeiro, accompanied by four English men of war. Before the fleet had left the river, a combined army of French and Spaniards appeared in sight of Lisbon, with General Junot, who had formerly been French ambassador to Portugal, at its head. He entered Lisbon without

opposition, disarmed the inhabitants, levied contributions, and treated it as a conquest of the French arms.

Although the differences between Great Britain and America were not entirely adjusted, yet there appeared such a disposition to accommodation, that the government of the latter had suspended the operation of a non-importation act against British goods which had passed in the preceding year. An incident, however, occurred, which endangered an immediate breach between the two countries. On June 23d, the Leopard English man of war meeting off the Capes of Virginia with the Chesapeake American frigate, a dispute took place relative to a search required by the former, for some deserters from the British navy known to be on board the latter. The American captain refusing to admit the search, he received a broadside from the Leopard, which killed and wounded several men, after which he struck his colours. A great flame was excited by this transaction in the United States; and on July 2d, a proclamation was issued by the president, in which, after stating in strong terms the injury received, and affirming that the men re-claimed were native citizens of the United States, he ordered the immediate departure of all British ships of war bearing commissions from the government, from all the harbours and waters of the States, and interdicted all intercourse with them should they refuse. He also forbade the entrance of all such ships, unless compelled by stress of weather, or by the pursuit of an enemy, or bearing public dispatches. Letters of an unpleasant tenour afterwards passed between Commodore Douglas and the mayor of Norfolk in Virginia; but at length a despatch from the town was politely received by the commodore, and he sailed away for Halifax.

On October 27th, a message was delivered to the American Congress from the president, which began with recounting the circumstances of the negotiation with the British ministry in the last year, and the reasons why he had not accepted the proposed treaty.

It was then said, that amicable discussions were still going on, when the outrage above-mentioned was perpetrated, for which satisfaction had been demanded from the English government. Complaint was next made of a new violation of maritime rights by England, which had issued an order interdicting all trade between ports not at amity with her; and as this nation was now at war with nearly every country on the Atlantic and Mediterranean seas, the American vessels were required to sell their cargoes in the first port at which they touched, or to bring them back unsold. Under this new law, it was asserted, many seizures and condemnations had been made.

Full proof having been brought, that one of the deserters taken on board the Chesapeak had entered the British navy as an Englishman, and served on board different ships, he was condemned by a court-martial at Halifax, and executed. To prevent future occurrences of the like kind, a proclamation was published in the London Gazette for re-calling and prohibiting British sailors from serving foreign princes and states; and in the same piece the right of searching *national* ships for British seamen is renounced, but that of taking them from merchant ships is retained.

On December 22d, the American Congress adopted a measure which, in a people so much attached to commerce, was a striking proof of the perplexities under which they laboured in consequence of the contending orders issued by England and France, respecting the trade of neutrals. By way of avoiding the losses and disputes to which such a state of things perpetually exposed them, an act was passed, laying a strict embargo on all vessels belonging to the United States, and at the same time commanding ships from all other nations to quit the American harbours, as soon as the act is notified to them, either with or without cargoes.

A revolution in the Turkish throne occurred in this year, occasioned by discontents prevailing particularly among the Janizaries, who were jealous of a new institution of troops clothed and disciplined after the

European manner. In the latter part of May, meetings were held between some leaders of the Janizaries and the Ulemas, or men of the law, at which it was determined that Sultan Selim should be dethroned, and his nephew Mustapha be placed in his stead. On the 29th of the month the Janizaries broke out into open mutiny; and though, according to the custom of that court, an attempt was made to appease them by the sacrifice of several members of the divan, who had incurred their displeasure, they were not to be diverted from their purpose. Mustapha, being taken out of the prison in which he was confined, was raised to the throne, and he had the humanity to spare the life of his abdicated uncle.

In the East Indies, a native chief who held of the Company as a zemindar, named Doondea Khan, refusing to appear before a magistrate on a summons for arrears of tribute, took refuge in his fort of Comona, where he was besieged by a military force under Major-General Dickens. An attempt to storm the place, on November 18th, was defeated with a loss of 700 men in killed and wounded. On the next day the Khan evacuated that fortress, and proceeded to another, which, also, he abandoned after a bombardment, and escaped with his troops across the Jumna.

The Danish West-India islands of St. Thomas, St. John's, and St. Croix, submitted without resistance in December, to a British squadron commanded by Sir A. Cochrane.

A. D. 1808.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 48 & 49.
 ——— PARLIAMENT 1 & 2.

King's Speech. — Debates on the Transactions at Copenhagen. — Discussion of the Orders in Council. — Budget. — Clause in the Mutiny Act permitting Enlistment for Life. — Local Militia. — Bill against the Grant of Offices in Reversion. — Bills altering the Punishment of stealing from the Person; and for the better Administration of Justice in Scotland. — Bill prohibiting Distillation from Grain. — Affairs of Spain — Insurrection at Madrid, and Abdication of the King in favour of his Son. — The Royal Family go to Bayonne, where the Father and Son transfer all their Rights to Napoleon. — Bloody Conflict at Madrid between the Inhabitants and the French Troops. — The Crown of Spain bestowed on Joseph Buonaparte. — General Insurrection of the Spanish Nation against the French. — Its Cause adopted by Great Britain and Portugal. — Events at Cadiz. — Surrender of the French General Dupont. — Actions in Valencia and Aragon. — Campaign in Portugal. — Convention of Cintra. — Revolt of Spanish Troops in Denmark. — Spanish Supreme Junta installed. — Conference between Napoleon and the Emperor Alexander at Erfurt. — Napoleon enters Spain with a great Army. — French Successes. — Sir J. Moore's Advance and Retreat. — Finland invaded by the Russians, and War between them and the Swedes. — Armistice and Convention. — Further Annexations to France. — The Papal Territories, and other Districts, annexed to the Kingdom of Italy. — General System of Education in France. — Murat declared King of Naples. — Revolutions in Turkey. — Naval Transactions. — Failure of a Negotiation between England and the American States, and Continuance of the Embargo. — Death of the King of Denmark. — French Royal Family take Refuge in England.

ON January 31st parliament was opened by commission with a speech in which foreign affairs were dwelt upon at unusual length, their situation being unfortunately such as gave occasion for mentioning almost every European state as an enemy. The determination of France to force the fleets of Portugal and Denmark

into hostility with this country was first noticed, as the cause of the policy adopted towards those courts; and it was lamented that the failure of an attempt for negotiation with the latter had authorized having recourse to the extremity of force. To the machinations of France was also attributed the hostile conduct of his Majesty's late allies, of which, that of Russia was more particularly animadverted upon. With respect to the differences subsisting with the United States of America, it was said that an immediate and spontaneous reparation had been offered for the unauthorized act of force committed against an American ship of war, but that the government of that country had attempted to connect with the question relative to this act, pretensions inconsistent with the maritime rights of Great Britain, which his Majesty is determined never to admit. Parliament is further informed, that the French decree of blockade of this whole kingdom had in the first instance been retorted by a measure of mitigated retaliation; but this proving ineffectual, it had been found necessary to adopt others of greater rigour, which would require parliamentary aid to give them full operation. The increased product of the revenue is then mentioned as a subject of congratulation. In fine, it is affirmed, in his Majesty's name, that if ever there was a just and national war, it is the present; and that he confidently trusts that the characteristic spirit of the British nation will be displayed in facing the unnatural combination gathered round it. The usual motions for addresses on the speech gave rise to debates, the subjects of which being afterwards more fully discussed, they may be passed over. The addresses were carried in both Houses without a division.

The expedition to Denmark was the leading topic of debates in both Houses of Parliament, which occurred in consequence of various motions relative to the subject. It appears to have been considered most methodically in a motion by Mr. Ponsonby, who proposed to take a view of it in the three distinct relations of Denmark, Russia, and France; and 1st, to endeavour to ascertain

the disposition of the Danish government towards this country for some time previously to the attack on Copenhagen ; 2d, whether immediately after the treaty of Tilsit Russia had entirely abandoned herself to the councils of France ; 3d, what means France possessed to compel Denmark to depart from her system of neutrality, and especially how far the former power could have succeeded in any attempts to annoy us in the Baltic. As his motion for papers to elucidate these points was negatived by 253 votes against 108, the proof on either part was left deficient. It was however admitted, that there was no evidence of hostile intentions of Denmark towards this country before the aggression ; and all that Mr. Canning endeavoured to establish on that head was, that it was probable, from past experience, that Denmark would be induced by inclination, or compelled by force, to join the league against us. With respect to Russia, it was held by the opposition, that there was no reason to suppose that any secret articles were contained in the treaty of Tilsit affecting the rights or interests of this country. The power of France to oblige the Danish court to become her instrument was very differently regarded by the disputants on the opposite sides. Her ability to reduce by her arms all the continental territory of Denmark was readily admitted ; but some good judges were of opinion that it would have been extremely difficult for the French to have landed upon the Danish isles in face of their fleet. The secretary of war, however, read an extract from some official papers to shew that at one period some steps had been taken by the Danish government for the purpose of enabling their fleet to oppose such an attempt ; but that they had been abandoned, and that when the danger came, it was utterly unprepared for resistance. The moral attack and defence of the measure lay in a narrow compass. It was manifestly impossible to justify such a violation of all the laws subsisting between civilized nations, on any other ground than that of the existence of a strong necessity of self-protection, and the degree of this necessity was the point of argu-

ment. There were some, indeed, who held that it would have been better to have encountered any hazard arising from the possession of the Danish fleet by our enemies, than to have stained our national character by a deed of lawless violence; but it may be presumed, from the great majorities by which the ministers were supported, that the general feeling led to a different conclusion; and the voice of the public appears to have coincided with that of parliament on the occasion. As to the mere party argument of recrimination employed against the late ministry, particularly by Mr. Canning, it may be passed over.

After several of the direct motions respecting this business had been disposed of, Lord Sidmouth moved for an address to the King, praying that the Danish fleet might be kept in such a state as not to preclude the possibility of restoring it, should circumstances occur under which it might be expedient so to do. This moderate proposal was supported even by some who had defended the seizure of the fleet, and who thought it a measure both of justice, and of true policy; it was, however, negatived by 105 votes to 51. A similar motion in the House of Commons by Lord Folkstone had the same issue. Lord Sidmouth afterwards moved certain resolutions relative to Danish merchant-ships detained in British ports previously to hostilities between the two countries, and at a time when there was no alleged cause of war or reprisals, and some of which had even decrees pronounced in their favour by the court of admiralty, as having been unjustly brought in; the purpose of which was that they might be restored to their owners, after being made answerable, in the first place, for the amount of British property sequestered in Denmark since the declaration of hostilities. This motion also was opposed by the ministers, and negatived.

Discussions concerning the orders in council, which had been issued subsequently to Napoleon's decree of blockade, occupied the attention of both Houses for some time after the chancellor of the exchequer had in-

roduced the subject on February 5th, by moving that these orders should be referred to the committee of ways and means. It was argued on the part of opposition, that this decree not having been acted upon, it was contrary both to justice and policy to oppose it by measures which violated both the law of nations, and the municipal law of this country. On the other side it was maintained, that we had a complete right to retaliate upon the enemy his own measures; that if he declared we should have no trade, we had a right to declare that he should have none; and if he proclaimed British manufactures and colonial produce good prize, we had a right to do the same with respect to French. It was also held, that if neutrals acquiesced in restrictions imposed by one belligerent, the other belligerent was warranted in considering such neutrals as a party to those restrictions. The arguments used, with respect to the right, amounted on the whole to the principle, that injustice practised by power on one side, justifies the same practice by power on the other side; and that, in point of fact, the law of nations, having no supreme court to enforce it, is the law of the strongest. It was not difficult, however, for the ministry in being, to recriminate upon the former ministry, on this as on other topics. With respect to the policy of these measures, a great variety of argument was employed on each side, during the debates on a bill brought in by the chancellor of the exchequer, for making valid the orders of council, which finally passed both Houses on March 25th. It was accompanied by a bill for commercial intercourse with America, which was intended to give time for making arrangements with that country, and in the mean while continuing an act, without which, trade could not be carried on hither in American vessels.

On April 11th, Mr. Perceval brought the annual budget before the House. He stated the amount of the supplies voted at about 43 millions for England, and 5,700,000 for Ireland, and the produce of the war taxes at 20 millions. Among the ways and means were a loan of 8 millions, and additional taxes to the amount

of above 300,000*l*. A new financial plan introduced by him was that of enabling the holders of 3 per cent. stock to transfer their stock to the commissioners for the reduction of the national debt, and to receive equivalent annuities in its stead. He proposed certain resolutions to this effect, which afterwards passed into acts.

The House of Commons having on March 8th gone into a Committee on the mutiny bill, Lord Castlereagh made a motion for a clause to permit men to enlist for life. The reasons which he assigned for this alteration of Mr. Windham's plan of limited service, were the inconvenience that would accrue from the simultaneous discharge of all those who had enlisted for a limited term, and the burden that must fall on the country from the accumulated number of pensions on the other plan. Mr. Windham considered such a clause as subversive of the system which had been approved by parliament after long investigation, and adduced facts to shew that the system had been efficacious in its purpose of increasing the number of recruits. The clause, however, after being debated on, was carried in both Houses.

A bill for establishing a local militia of 200,000 men, to be trained for 28 days annually, was introduced by Lord Castlereagh in April, and passed into a law. Its principle was further extended to Scotland.

Mr. Banks early in the session brought in a bill, conformably to former resolutions of the House of Commons, for preventing the grant of offices in reversion, or for joint lives with benefit of survivorship, which having passed that House, was thrown out by the Lords. Having however been again introduced, with a limitation to one year, and some other alterations, it was suffered to pass into a law.

A measure for the melioration of the criminal law of England, by lessening the number of capital punishments, was introduced into parliament in May, by Sir S. Romilly, in a motion for repealing so much of an act of Queen Elizabeth as takes away the benefit of clergy

from such as privately steal from the persons of others. To the bill brought in for this purpose, the solicitor-general proposed a clause, declaring that stealing without a person's knowledge, whether privily from the person or not, in contradistinction from robbery, should be punished by banishment for life, or for a shorter period, not less than seven years, at the discretion of the judge, or, in favourable cases, by imprisonment; and with this amendment, the bill passed.

A bill for the better administration of justice in Scotland was introduced in this session by the lord chancellor, which consisted in dividing the court of session into two chambers, to which certain powers were given of making regulations with respect to proceedings, and of issuing commissions to ascertain in what cases trials by jury might be proper. The bill passed into a law.

A bill which occasioned considerable discussions, and was encountered by a powerful opposition from the landed interest, was one for prohibiting the distillation of spirit from corn or grain during a limited time. It had two objects; that of preventing such a consumption of grain as rendered the country dependent on foreign importation for a due supply of that necessary of life; and that of affording relief to our sugar islands, the demand for the products of which was greatly reduced by the obstructions thrown in the way of commerce. The bill was carried, though by small majorities.

Parliament was prorogued by commission on July 4th.

The center of political interest in this year was the Spanish peninsula. The mysterious difference prevailing in the royal family of Spain, in which the King, reduced to a cypher by the predominant sway of the Queen's great favourite Godoy, was thrown into alarm by the designs, real or pretended, of his son the Prince of Asturias, while the latter had apparently been led to seek support from a connection with the French Emperor, has been mentioned among the occurrences of the preceding year. How far Napoleon was originally instrumental in promoting this family disagreement

can only be conjectured ; but, from the sequel, it is manifest that Spain was the capital object of his ambition after his extraordinary successes in the northern parts of Europe, and that he was intent upon making the greatest advantage of its domestic dissensions. Already possessed of the capital of Portugal, and having secured free access for his troops to every part of the peninsula, he was upon the watch for the most favourable occasion to bring the whole within his grasp.

Godoy, it is said, apprehending the loss of his power, had so far excited the fears of the imbecile King, that he meditated a retreat to Seville, and thence, probably, into South America, in imitation of the Prince of Portugal. A report of this intention becoming current at Madrid on March 15th, the populace assembled, and intreated the Spanish soldiers not to concur in the project of the King's abandonment of his country. People from the country flocking in with the same disposition, an open insurrection burst out, and on the 17th an attack was made on the palace of Godoy at Aranjuez, which was repulsed by his guards. Being, however, joined by the King's guards, the people forced the palace, from which Godoy made a timely escape, but his brother was arrested. The French ambassador arrived at Aranjuez on that day ; and a decree was issued in the King's name dismissing the Prince of Peace from all his employments. The populace however still remained in a state of insurrection at Aranjuez and Madrid, and pillaged the houses of several persons attached to the court. The King, now deprived of his prime minister, and incapable of originating any measure to restore tranquillity, published another decree on the 19th, in which he announced that he had abdicated the throne in favour of his son, the Prince of Asturias ; but at the same time, with the usual duplicity of weakness, he wrote a letter to Napoleon, intreating, in the most submissive and adulatory terms, his interposition, and declaring his abdication forced and null. The new King, under the title of Ferdinand VII., issued an edict on the 20th, confiscating all the

effects of the Prince of Peace, and nominating the Duke of Infantado colonel of the guards, and president of Castille; and the council published an address to the people of Madrid, for the purpose of restoring order, and inspiring confidence in the government.

On March 24th the Grand Duke of Berg (Murat) entered Madrid at the head of a French army, and was received by the inhabitants with apparent cordiality; and the Spanish nation in general expressed their joy at the change in the crown, and especially on the fall of the detested Godoy. Napoleon about this time advanced towards Bayonne, having made no explicit declaration of the part he meant to take. He dispatched General Savary as his envoy to Ferdinand, who, on the declaration of the latter, that his sentiments respecting France were the same with those of the King his father, assured him of the friendship of the Emperor, and that he would be recognized by him as King of Spain. Savary also affirmed that his master was on his way to Madrid. Ferdinand was now strongly urged to go to meet the Emperor as far as Burgos, and he left the capital for that purpose, attended by Savary. He was artfully drawn on from place to place till, not meeting the Emperor, he was persuaded to go through to Bayonne. Great interest had in the meantime been making by the Queen for the release of Godoy, who had been apprehended with the purpose of bringing him to trial; and a peremptory order being sent by Napoleon for liberating him, he was conveyed to Bayonne. There, also, on April 30th arrived the deposed King Charles and his Queen, their younger son Don Carlos having preceded, with a number of the Spanish nobility. Thus, by an imbecility almost beyond example, this branch of the Bourbons threw themselves entirely into the hands of the man who occupied another subverted Bourbon throne, and rendered him the supreme arbiter of their differences.

The French papers now began decidedly to take the part of King Charles and his minister the Prince of Peace, and to represent the abdication of the former as

an act of compulsion ; and it was not long before Savary was sent to King Ferdinand to require his resignation of the crown. But this was not to be followed by the restoration of Charles ; for the renunciation was to be made by Ferdinand in his own name and that of his family, in favour of the dynasty of Buonaparte. This was enforced by the old King, who declared his resolution to make a similar renunciation. A strange correspondence then ensued between the old and young King, the latter of whom, delaying to give the required resignation, was called into the presence of Napoleon, Charles, his Queen, Don Carlos, and the Spanish grandees, when a scene ensued which nothing but positive testimony could render credible. The Queen in a transport of rage accusing Ferdinand of treason against his father, said, “ I tell you to your face, that you are my son, but not the son of the King, and yet, without having any other right to the crown than that of your mother, you have sought to tear it from us by force. I demand that the Emperor Napoleon shall be umpire between us, to whom we transfer our rights, to the exclusion of our own family.” No measures were now kept with the unhappy Ferdinand, who was induced by the threat of death to sign a resignation of the throne in favour of his father ; by whom all its rights were transferred on May 5th to Napoleon, on the two conditions, that the integrity of the kingdom should be maintained, and that the Roman-catholic should be the only religion tolerated.

Intelligence of the condition to which the Spanish royal family were reduced at Bayonne having reached Madrid, an extraordinary ferment was excited in the minds of the people ; and on May 2d, the day fixed for the departure of the King's daughter, the Queen of Etruria, with her son, for Bayonne, a number of the populace assembled as spectators. Their indignation being roused at the scene, a tumult arose, which a detachment of French soldiers was brought to quell. It is not exactly ascertained on which side violence commenced ; but in a short time the whole armed populace of Madrid

were engaged against 10,000 French troops with Murat at their head, and a dreadful carnage took place, terminating in the defeat of the insurgents, and the disarming of the whole city. By an edict issued at Bayonne on May 4th, the Grand Duke of Berg was appointed lieutenant or viceroy of all Spain, and the junta nominated him president of the council. The council of Castille also gave their sanction to all the decrees of the French Emperor and his lieutenant. A proclamation on the 19th ordered a convention of notables for the purpose of sending deputies to a junta to be assembled at Bayonne. On the 25th Napoleon published an address to the Spaniards to prepare them for that change in their government which he had resolved upon. "Your Princes (said he) have ceded to me their rights to the crown of Spain. Your nation is old; my *mission* is to restore its youth." The junta summoned to meet at Bayonne assembled there, to the number of about 90, in the month of June, bringing with them instructions from their constituents, but with very restricted powers. A new constitution for Spain was however laid before them for their acceptance on July 7th, at which ceremony their new King, Joseph Buonaparte, transferred from the throne of Naples to that of Spain, appeared in royal state, and the members severally took an oath of obedience to the King, the constitution, and the laws. A number of the first nobility were appointed to offices in the court of Joseph, his ministers were nominated, the old royal family of Spain was carried for security into the interior of France, and thus was effected one of the most singular and unprincipled revolutions in a powerful kingdom of which history affords a record.

The *nation*, however, was not reduced to subjection with its pusillanimous royal family and abject nobles. As soon as the French usurpation was made known, an explosion of indignant patriotism burst forth in the mass of people from one extremity of Spain to the other, which, as might be expected, at first displayed itself in some atrocities, but at length subsided in a settled

and determinate purpose of resistance. Provincial juntas were in many parts established which gave a regular organization to the popular efforts. Of these, the supreme junta of Seville took the lead, and proclaimed Ferdinand VII. and war with France. Some of the nobles, who had made a part of the junta at Bayonne, deserted the cause of Joseph, and joined the patriots, as soon as they had an opportunity. The clergy in general were zealous in the national cause, through detestation of the principles of the French and their ruler. It was especially to Great Britain that the Spaniards looked for support, and deputies soon arrived in London from various provinces, soliciting the friendship and aid of this country. They were received with open arms, and never was any foreign interest adopted by this nation with more ardour and unanimity than that of the Spanish independence. Peace with Spain was proclaimed on July 5th; the Spanish prisoners were liberated, clothed, and sent to join their countrymen: the British arsenals furnished all the warlike means that could be desired; to public aids afforded and promised, private subscriptions were added, and one spirit seemed to animate the whole island. Portugal, catching the flame, declared her own independence, and made common cause with Spain; and a league, offensive and defensive between the two nations, was signed at Oporto, in the names of King Ferdinand and the Prince Regent of Portugal, on the 14th of July.

As the affairs of the peninsula take the lead in point of importance of all the occurrences of this year, it may be desirable to proceed without interruption to the close of the narrative.

The city of Cadiz having at the latter end of May been brought under the authority of the patriots, by the massacre of Solano; its governor, and captain-general of Andalusia, a correspondence was entered into between General Castanos, and the commanders of the British forces at Gibraltar and in the Mediterranean, in consequence of which Lord Collingwood offered his assistance in reducing the French fleet

which, from the time of the battle of Trafalgar, had been lying in the port of Cadiz. It was effected, however, by the Spaniards alone; and on June 4th, the French fleet of five ships of the line, a frigate, and 1000 seamen and marines, was forced to surrender.

A French army of 15,000 men under General Dupont, marched from Madrid to Andalusia, and on June 7th, entered Cordova, which for three days was given up to pillage. General Castanos advancing against the enemy with a force of 46,000 of which 25,000 were cavalry, the French commander took a strong position at Andujar, where he entrenched himself. Being cut off from all communications, and reduced to great difficulties, he made an attack with 8000 men upon the Spaniards on July 20th, in which he was repulsed with great loss. Another French division coming up, the action was renewed; but in the end, Dupont found it necessary to surrender at discretion, and at the same time a capitulation was agreed on for the separate division. Such was the result of the battle of Baylen, which proved highly advantageous to the Spanish cause.

Marshal Moncey led an expedition against Valentia in the month of June, and penetrated to that capital, on which he opened a heavy fire; but being closely followed by the Spanish General Caro, he found it necessary to retreat to his camp, and thence return to Madrid, having sustained a considerable loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners.

Aragon, peculiarly exposed to attacks from the French on account of its position between the frontier and Madrid, and its vicinity to Navarre and Catalonia, which provinces were in their possession, was heroically defended by its inhabitants under the command of Don Joseph Palafox. Its capital, Saragossa, underwent a siege which was one of the most memorable events of the war; for, being unprotected by fortifications, the conflict was carried on from street to street, and from house to house. The most desperate courage was displayed in its defence, in which the female sex took a

full share ; and, after three months of very severe action, the siege was broken up in the middle of August, and the retreating French were followed into Navarre.

In other parts of Spain the success was various ; but upon the whole, the appearance of affairs was so menacing to the invaders, that on July 29th, the French, with King Joseph, began to evacuate Madrid. The meanness of this mock sovereign was shewn by the plunder he carried with him of the crown-jewels, plate, and all the valuables in the royal palaces.

While these transactions were passing in Spain, events took place in Portugal in which Great Britain bore a leading part. It has been mentioned that the spirit of resistance to the French authority broke out first at Oporto. General Loison, who advanced from Lisbon with a small force to suppress the insurrection, found it expedient to draw back, and all the north of Portugal took up arms in the patriotic cause. Recourse was immediately had to England for succour, and Sir Arthur Wellesley, who had arrived with 10,000 men at Corunna, having offered to assist the Spaniards in that quarter, was requested rather to carry aid to the Portuguese, and accordingly proceeded to Oporto. Having consulted with Sir C. Cotton, commanding the fleet off Lisbon, respecting the propriety of forcing the Tagus, and attacking the forts in the vicinity of the capital, he landed his troops in Mondego bay, where he was joined by about 6000 men under General Spencer. Directing his march on the road to Lisbon, he attacked and defeated a French corps commanded by General Laborde at Roleia, and then proceeded to Lourinha, to favour the landing of a reinforcement of 5000 men under General Anstruther. Junot, the French commander-in-chief at Lisbon, now marched out with nearly the whole of his force to attack the British, before they should be joined by a more considerable expected reinforcement under Sir John Moore : and on August 21st, a battle was fought at Vimiera, which, after a severe contest, terminated in an entire defeat of the French, who lost 13 pieces of cannon,

and about 3000 men in killed, wounded, and prisoners. The British army moved to Cintra, where, on the 22d, Sir Hew Dalrymple arrived from Gibraltar to take the command of all the different British corps in Portugal; and soon after a flag of truce came from Junot, proposing a cessation of hostilities in order to settle a convention by which the French should evacuate Portugal. This was consented to, and the convention was signed on the 30th. Its essential articles were, that the French troops in Portugal, with their arms and equipments, should, at the expence of the English government, be disembarked in France, and not considered as prisoners of war, and that they should be secured in all their private property of every description; also, that the Spanish troops detained as prisoners on board ship in the Tagus should be delivered to the British commander-in-chief, who engaged to obtain from the Spaniards the restoration of the French subjects detained in Spain without having been taken in battle. Sir C. Cotton entered into a separate convention with the admiral of the Russian ships lying in the Tagus, by which they were surrendered with their stores to be sent to England, and held as a deposit, till after a definitive peace between Russia and Great Britain.

The intelligence of the convention* of Cintra was received with general dissatisfaction in England, where the victory at Vimiera had excited sanguine expectations of the unconditional surrender of the French army in Portugal. Petitions for enquiry were sent up to the throne from various parts of the kingdom, and a board of officers was appointed for that purpose by government. Although unanimous in their approbation of the military conduct of the commanders and troops, there was a difference in their opinions respecting the terms of the armistice and convention; and a formal disapprobation of both on the part of his Majesty was communicated to Sir Hew Dalrymple.

We are now to revert to the state of affairs in the Spanish part of the peninsula, premising a remarkable

instance of the patriotic zeal which animated a body of Spaniards at a distance from their own country.

Among the allies led by Napoleon to fight under his banners in the north of Europe, were about 16,000 Spanish veterans, the flower of the regular army, whose absence from Spain he probably thought as important to his designs, as their presence on the scene of action. They were at this time quartered in Denmark, and obtaining intelligence of the efforts of their countrymen to secure their independence, they embraced with enthusiasm the national cause. Those in the island of Zealand formed round their colours, and on their knees swore fidelity to their country: they fired on the French general who commanded them, and killed his aid-de-camp, but were surrounded by a superior force, and disarmed. The Spaniards in the isle of Funen, to the number of 6000, commanded by the Marquis de la Romana, took possession of the port of Nyborg; but its harbour being blocked by two Danish gun-boats, Admiral Keats, who lay in the Great Belt, sent a force which took the vessels, and liberated the Spaniards, who were conveyed, under the protection of the English fleet, to the isle of Langeland. They were there joined by those who were posted in that place, and by others who escaped from Jutland; and at length near 10,000 were collected for transport to Spain, impatient to shed their blood in the sacred cause of their country.

After the capital of Spain had been freed from the invaders, it was determined to collect into one body the public authority, which had hitherto been divided among the juntas of the particular provinces; and a supreme and central junta, formed by deputies nominated by the provincial juntas, was solemnly installed at Aranjuez on September 25th, of which the first president was the Count Florida Blanca. It was acknowledged by the council of Castille, and all the other constituted authorities of the kingdom; and having addressed a proclamation to the Spanish people, exhorting them to constancy in the great struggle, its first act was appointing a new council of war, consisting of five

members, General Castanos being president. The national force was divided into three great bodies, an eastern wing commanded by General Palafox, a north-western by General Blake, and a centre by General Castanos.

This was, indeed, a season in which every exertion was demanded to resist the coming storm. The French Emperor, accustomed to see every thing submit to his will, and victory every where following his eagles, was equally surprized and indignant at the successful opposition of the Spaniards, and determined in person to change the fortune of the war. The first point to be secured was the permanence of that system of power in Germany and the north which had been established by the treaty of Tilsit, and for that purpose he planned an interview with the Emperor of Russia, over whose mind he flattered himself that he had obtained a lasting ascendancy. The meeting took place at Erfurt on September 27th, each sovereign being accompanied by a numerous and splendid suite. As it was the purpose of Napoleon to be enabled to withdraw his troops from Germany that they might be employed in the peninsula, he rendered Alexander the mediator of a negotiation, by which he engaged to evacuate the Prussian territory as soon as the contributions should be paid, which he reduced to one-third of their amount, and he wrote with his own hand an obliging letter to the Queen of Prussia. A proposal of peace to the English Court on the part of Russia and France was another result of this conference; which, however, was probably nothing more on the part of Napoleon than a profession of pacific inclinations, since he refused to regard the Spaniards in any other light than as insurgents, and would not admit them as a party to any negotiation. After his return from Erfurt, he made a speech to the legislative body, in which he declared that the Emperor of Russia and he were unchangeably united both for peace and war, that he was satisfied with the sentiments of the confederacy of the Rhine and the people of Italy, and that he was going to place himself at the head of his army to crown

his brother in Madrid, and plant his eagles on the fortresses of Portugal. He then ordered a levy of 160,000 conscripts, and having put his veteran troops in motion for Spain, proceeded to Bayonne, and thence to the head quarters of the French army at Vittoria.

The military force of Spain really formidable to an invader at this time, was the general armed population, continually carrying on an irregular but extremely harassing war, and not to be destroyed by repeated defeats. The trained forces in the field were wholly unable to meet, upon equal terms, French armies commanded by the ablest generals of the age, and animated by the presence of their sovereign. The campaign, therefore, which followed the arrival of Napoleon, was a series of victories to one party, and routs to the other, of which it will here be sufficient to mention the general results. Marshal Ney having cut off the communication between the armies under Generals Blake and Castanos, the former was driven from post to post, and after great losses, was obliged to take refuge with his broken remains in Asturias. The army of Castanos was entirely defeated at Tudela on November 23d, and the road being thereby laid open to Madrid, the advanced parties of the French appeared before that capital on November 1st. After a show of resistance, a deputation from the junta waited on Napoleon upon the 4th, who sternly told them that if the city did not submit by the next morning, it would be taken by assault, and every man found in arms should be put to death. The Spanish troops remaining in Madrid were sent away on that night, and the French entered on the following day. Although it is asserted that Madrid was given up through treachery, there is no probability that it could have been defended against such assailants. An ineffectual attempt had been made for its relief by the British allies of Spain. Sir John Moore, who succeeded to the chief command of the English troops, received orders to enter Spain in aid of the patriots. He advanced to Salamanca in November, where he was informed of the disasters

that had befallen the Spaniards, and at length, of the defeat of Castanos at Tudela. The latter event gave such a decided superiority to the French, that a timely retreat appeared to be the only safe measure to be adopted; and he wrote to Sir David Baird, who was advancing to join him with a reinforcement from Corunna, to retire upon that place, and proceed thence to meet him at Lisbon. Some new information, however, and the remonstrances of Mr. Frere, the English minister at Madrid, induced Sir J. Moore to alter his purpose, and he made a forward movement in the direction of Burgos, having on his march formed a junction with Sir D. Baird. He was on the point of making an attack upon Marshal Soult, who was posted on the river Carrion, when receiving advice of the arrival of considerable reinforcements to the French, he again determined on a retreat; but the consequences of this measure belong to the narrative of the following year.

The only other part of Europe in which warlike transactions were carrying on in this year was Sweden. The King of that country, with some qualities of heroism, wanted the soundness of mind necessary for the management of public affairs, and acted more from the impulse of passion than the conclusions of reason. One of the least potentates of Europe in point of strength and resources, he wished to assume the political rank of one of the greatest. His firm resolution of adhering to his engagements with England was honourable to his principles, but involved his crown and country in imminent danger. Having placed himself in a state of hostility with the other northern powers a Russian army entered Finland before a declaration of war, which occasioned the arrest of the ambassador of that court at Stockholm. The Swedish troops were obliged to retreat before an enemy so much superior in force, and war was openly declared against Sweden by Russia, Prussia, and Denmark. England was not unmindful of her ally. A British squadron joined the Swedish ships in guarding the passage of the Sound, and a body of troops was in

readiness for affording assistance by land. Meanwhile, the Russians having in March taken possession of Abo, the capital of Finland, and declared its annexation to the Russian empire, the king of Sweden suddenly deserted the farther defence of that province, and undertook the invasion of Norway. The succour from England consisting of 10,000 men under Sir J. Moore, arrived at Gottenburg on May 17th, when that general proceeded to Stockholm to concert measures of co-operation with the Swedish troops. He there found that the King, although his means were very insufficient even for defence, was bent upon conquest; and refusing to concur in some of his extravagant plans, as being contrary to his orders, the King's resentment was so much excited, that he was obliged to escape in disguise, and brought back his troops without landing them.

The strong fortress of Sweaborg then surrendered to the Russians, with the flotilla in its harbour, which last was to be restored to Sweden, when England restored to Denmark her captured ships. The Russians also made descents on the Isles of Gothland and Aland. An engagement between the flotillas of the two powers ended to the disadvantage of the Swedes. In Finland an armistice took place on September 27th, which left the greatest part of the province in the possession of Russia. The King of Sweden, giving vent to his anger and mortification, broke his guards to the number of 4000, on account of their behaviour, and thus threw disgrace upon many of the first families in the kingdom. A convention was afterwards entered into, by which Finland was continued in the occupation of the Russians, on condition of the unmolested retreat of the remaining Swedish troops.

Besides the usurpation of Spain, various other instances of the unlimited and unprincipled spirit of aggrandizement actuating the French ruler were exhibited in this year.

By a decree of the conservative senate, issued in January and signed by Napoleon, the towns of Kehl, Wesel, Cassel, and Flushing, were annexed to the French empire.

In May, Napoleon gave an extraordinary proof of confidence in the plenitude of his power, by an attack upon the Roman See, which could not fail of rendering him odious to the whole catholic world. He published a decree in the following words: "Whereas the temporal sovereign of Rome has refused to make war against England, and the interest of the two kingdoms, that of Italy and of Naples, ought not to be intercepted by a hostile power; and whereas the donation of Charlemagne, our illustrious predecessor, of the countries which form the Holy See, was for the good of christianity, and not for that of the enemies of our holy religion: We therefore decree that the duchies of Urbino, Ancona, Macerata, and Camerino, be for ever united with the kingdom of Italy: to which kingdom all cardinal prelates, &c. natives of those districts, are commanded to return by the 5th of June, on pain of confiscation of goods." This singular product of undisguised despotism called forth a declaration from the Pope, in which he calmly but forcibly maintained the rights of his See, and solemnly protested against the intended spoliation; it did not, however, prevent the entry of a French army, which took possession of all the strong places in the ecclesiastical territories. A farther arbitrary annexation to the kingdom of Italy was that of Parma, Placentia, and Tuscany.

Ever intent on establishing a regular system of arbitrary power at home, Napoleon, in this year, published a decree for instituting a general plan of education throughout the French empire, under the title of an Imperial University. It was a curious scheme for subjecting the whole matter of instruction to the will of the supreme ruler of the state, its fundamental article being, that "no school or establishment for education of any kind can be formed apart from the Imperial University, or without the authorisation of its head;" which head, in the last resort, was the Emperor himself, who thus projected to make himself master of the minds, as well as the persons, of the whole rising generation.

The royalty of the Buonaparte family received an addition in this year by the nomination of Murat, who had married a sister of Napoleon, to the kingdom of Naples, on the translation of King Joseph to the throne of Spain.

New revolutions took place in the turbulent government of Turkey. Mustapha Bairactar, pashaw of Rudshuck, a man of an enterprising character, and of more enlightened views than usual among the Turks, determined, notwithstanding the opposition of the Janissaries, to introduce new regulations in the military system. Bringing to Constantinople a body of troops on whom he could rely, he deposed all the new ministers of Sultan Mustapha, put to death the commandant of the castles of the Dardanelles, and the Aga of the Janissaries, and on July 28th caused the dethroned Selim to be declared Emperor. Mustapha, however, prevented this restoration, by causing his uncle Selim to be strangled, and exposing his dead body in the seraglio. This bloody deed only accelerated his own fall; Mustapha was deposed, and his younger brother Mahomet was raised to the throne in his stead, who declared Bairactar grand vizier. During the time in which he held the power, he acted with vigour in new modelling the army and navy, and putting in practice various important improvements. But like his predecessors in this career, he fell a sacrifice to the established system. On November 15th, the Janissaries, who had massacred the principal officers of the regulated troops, scaled the walls of the seraglio; when Bairactar, having first strangled the deposed Mustapha, blew himself up in his own palace with gunpowder previously provided against such an occurrence.

The naval transactions of this year were not of considerable importance, but in such as occurred, the usual maritime superiority of Great Britain was manifested.

In March, a Danish man of war of 74 guns was taken and burnt by two English ships on the coast

of Zealand, leaving only one of the same force in the navy of Denmark.

A very severe action took place in the same month off Ceylon, between the *St. Fiorenzo*, an English frigate, and the French frigate *Piedmontaise* of 50 guns, in which the latter was captured, with a great loss of men. The brave Captain Hardinge fell on the side of the victors.

An extraordinary instance of the naval inferiority of the Turks was shewn by an engagement in the Archipelago on July 5th. The *Seahorse* English frigate descrying off the isle of Scopolo a Turkish ship of 52 guns, a corvette of 24 guns, and a galley, by manœuvring brought the corvette first to action, and in a short time reduced her to a wreck. She then engaged in close fight with the large ship, and after an obstinate resistance, compelled her to strike with the loss of 360 men killed and wounded, that of the *Seahorse* being only five killed and ten wounded. The galley sheered off at the beginning of the encounter.

A Russian fleet having appeared in the Baltic, Sir S. Hood with two ships of the line made a junction with the Swedes, and proceeded on August 25th, in quest of the enemy, who had 13 sail of the line, besides frigates. The Russians taking to flight, and the combined fleet pursuing, the British ships shot a-head, and brought the stern-most Russian ship to action. The Russian admiral bore down with all his force to rescue her, but could not prevent her destruction by the English as she struck on a shoal.

Early in the year the two small French West-India islands of Marigalante and Deseada surrendered to a British force. A civil war was at this time raging in St. Domingo between the black chiefs, Christophe and Petion.

Mr. Rose, who had been sent to the United States for the purpose of restoring a good intelligence between the two countries, returned without success. The embargo was continued by the Americans throughout the year, though not without great dissatisfaction, especially in

the northern states. At the meeting of the Congress in November, the president in a message acquainted them with the failure of his negotiations with the French and English Courts to obtain a revocation of their measures to the injury of neutral commerce. With respect to the latter, he said that an offer was made of taking off the embargo as far as concerned the trade to Great Britain, on condition of the repeal of the orders of council, but that it was not accepted.

The death of the King of Denmark in this year, after having long been in a state of mental imbecility, was an event of no political consequence.

In the month of August, the titular King and Queen of France, with the late king's daughter, the Duchess of Angoulême, took refuge in England. Louis was not here recognised as King, but passed under the title of the Count de Lille.

A. D. 1809.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 49 & 50:
 ——— PARLIAMENT 2/ & 3.

King's Speech and Debates. — *Mr. Wardle's Charge against the Duke of York as Commander-in-Chief, and subsequent Proceedings.* — *Bill to prevent the Sale of Offices.* — *Enquiry into corrupt Practices in the Appointment of East-India Writers; and its Results.* — *Bill to prevent Bribery in Elections to Parliament.* — *Bill for augmenting the Militia.* — *Budget.* — *Retreat of the British Army to Corunna, and Death of Sir John Moore.* — *Campaign in Spain and Portugal.* — *Spaniards defeated at Medullin.* — *Battle of Talavera.* — *Further Successes of the French.* — *Rupture between Austria and France.* — *March of Napoleon into Germany.* — *Battles of Abersberg and Eckmühl.* — *His advance to Vienna.* — *Sanguinary Actions on the Danube.* — *Insurrection against the French in the North of Germany.* — *Occurrences in Italy.* — *French cross the Danube and defeat the Austrians at Wagram.* — *Armistice.* — *Insurrection of the Tyrolese.* — *Peace between France and Austria.* — *Revolution in Sweden, and Deposition of the King.* — *Peace between Sweden and the Powers in Hostility with it.* — *Expedition to Calabria by Sir John Stuart.* — *Grand Expedition fitted out to the Scheldt.* — *Flushing taken.* — *Disastrous Termination of the Enterprize.* — *Peace between England and the Porte.* — *Cayenne surrendered.* — *Reduction of Martinico.* — *Success against a French Fleet near Rochelle.* — *City of St. Domingo surrendered.* — *Senegal taken.* — *Zante and the neighbouring Islands yielded to a British Force.* — *French Convoy destroyed near Rosas.* — *The Pope brought to Avignon, and Rome annexed to the French Empire.* — *Divorce between Napoleon and Josephine.* — *War renewed between Russia and Turkey.* — *Mr. Madison elected President of the American States.* — *Embargo Act repealed, and Treaty signed between the Americans and the British Plenipotentiary, but disavowed in England.* — *Changes in the Ministry.* — *Jubilee celebrating the 50th Year of his Majesty's Reign.*

PARLIAMENT opened on January 19th, with a royal speech delivered by commission. It began with stating the reason which had determined his Majesty to reject certain proposals for a negotiation with the governments

of Russia and France, and which was, their requisition of his abandoning the cause of Spain as a preliminary. Receiving from the Spanish Government the strongest assurance of its perseverance in the cause of the legitimate monarchy and national independence, he was determined to continue his support to the people of Spain, so long as they should remain true to themselves. With respect to Portugal, his Majesty expressed his satisfaction with the achievements of his forces in that country, and its liberation from the French; but at the same time deeply regretted the termination of the campaign by the armistice and convention, of some of the articles of which he declared his disapprobation. He recommended to parliament the continuance of the aid to his ally the King of Sweden; and in consideration of the immense interests now at stake, he hoped they would proceed with as little delay as possible to take the most effectual measures for the augmentation of the regular army.

Of the subsequent copious debates, first respecting the usual addresses, and afterwards on motions for the thanks of parliament to the officers and troops engaged in Portugal, and for resolutions and enquiries concerning the campaigns in Portugal and Spain, it would be impracticable to convey any idea in the compass prescribed to this work, which is intended to record facts rather than words. It may, however, be mentioned, that Lord H. Petty's motion in the House of Commons for resolutions directly censuring the convention of Cintra, and attributing the causes which led to them, to the misconduct of the ministers, was defeated by no greater majority than 203 to 158; and also, that Mr. Ponsonby's motion for an enquiry into the conduct of the late campaign in Spain was negatived by 220 to 127.

Early in the session a subject was introduced into parliament which excited extraordinary interest through the nation, and for a time seemed to take place of every other topic. On January 27th Mr. Wardle, a colonel of militia, after speaking of a system of corruption which

had long prevailed in the military department, directly charged the commander-in-chief, the Duke of York, with having suffered himself to be swayed by a mistress named Clarke, who had carried on a traffic in commissions. He affirmed that the following positions could be established by witnesses; that Mrs. Clarke possessed the power of military promotion; that she received pecuniary consideration; and that the commander-in-chief was a partaker in the benefit arising from such consideration. He concluded with moving for the appointment of a committee to investigate the conduct of the Duke of York with regard to promotions, exchanges, &c. After various observations on the subject by different members, it was resolved that the enquiry should be made in a committee of the whole House. During the proceedings in this remarkable case, which occupied the greatest part of two months, and which drew fuller houses than were almost ever known, long and minute examinations were carried on of persons of both sexes, several of them of a description rarely seen at the bar of a legislative assembly, and whose answers (especially those of the female most concerned) often more contributed to the entertainment, than corresponded with the dignity, of that body. That Mrs. Clarke had really received sums of money for her interest in obtaining promotions and other appointments, was proved beyond all doubt; but the Duke's knowledge of her transactions, and participation in her gains, were circumstances the proof of which depended chiefly on the credibility of Mrs. Clarke herself. The defenders of the Duke were for the most part members of the administration and crown lawyers; whereas on the other side were many of the most independent members, who were not habitual oppositionists. Very respectable testimonies, however, were given to the excellence of the Duke's general conduct in his high office; and the improvements the military system had received under his management. After much consideration on the mode of coming to a decision, three different determinations remained for the choice of the House; one,

implying the Duke's knowledge of, and connivance at, the corrupt practices which had been proved to exist, and in consequence suggesting to his Majesty the propriety of his removal from office; another, entirely acquitting him of these charges; and a third, a kind of medium, in which, while he was exculpated from the charge of personal corruption, the prevalence of abuses, of which he could scarcely have been ignorant, was given as a reason why the command of the army could not with propriety be continued to him. The first division, on March 15th, related to the question whether the House should proceed by address or resolution, and it was carried in favour of the latter mode by 294 to 199; and this decision excluded the medium, which proposed an address. The House then divided upon Mr. Wardle's motion, which was a direct inculcation of the Duke, and it was negatived by 364 to 123. On the 17th the chancellor of the exchequer moved a resolution to the following effect: That the House having examined the evidence in the investigation of the Duke of York's conduct, and having found that personal corruption and connivance at corruption had been imputed to him, are of opinion that the imputation is wholly without foundation. This motion was carried by 278 to 196. The victory, however, was too hardly gained, and was too little supported by the concurrence of public opinion, to render it expedient for the commander-in-chief to remain in possession of his office; and his resignation was formally communicated to the House on the 20th, by the minister. A resolution was then moved by Lord Althorpe, "That his Royal Highness having resigned the command of the army, the House does not *now* think it necessary to proceed farther in the consideration of the evidence adduced, as far as relates to his Royal Highness;" when the word *now* being supposed to express the opinion of the House that the Duke should not at any future time be re-instated in his office, it was moved by the minister that the word should be left out, which was carried by 235 to 112. Thus was terminated a discussion, which, whatever be thought of

its origin, was rendered important in its progress by the great interest taken in it through the nation, and the freedom of debate with which it was conducted ; and if its issue be regarded as a proof of a preponderating influence in parliament, it also gave a demonstration that the most elevated rank cannot, under the British constitution, shelter abuses from detection, or protect those concerned in them from the effects of the public displeasure.

The evidence upon the preceding enquiry having brought to light various other abuses, the chancellor of the exchequer moved for a bill to prevent the sale and brokerage of offices. He observed, that the practices lately disclosed consisted not in the sale of offices by those who had the power to give them, but in the arts of those who pretended to possess an influence over such persons ; his object therefore was to make it highly penal to solicit money for procuring offices, or to circulate advertisements with that view. Leave being given, the bill was brought in, which passed into a law.

Another discovery was that of a regular and avowed traffic in East India appointments, on which account a select committee of the House of Commons was nominated to enquire into the existence of any corrupt practices in regard to the appointment of writers or cadets in the service of the East India Company ; and from their report it appeared that a very great number of such places had been disposed of in an illegal manner. In the course of the examinations into this abuse, it was discovered that Lord Castlereagh had endeavoured to procure a seat in parliament for his friend Lord Clancarty, in exchange for a writership which had been given to the former when president of the board of control. This negotiation was brought before the cognizance of the House of Commons on April 25th by Lord Archibald Hamilton, who, after stating the whole case, moved that the minutes of the evidence be read. Lord Castlereagh modestly defended himself, and left the House ; after which Lord A. Hamilton moved certain

resolutions against him, as having violated his duty as president of the board of controul, and attacked the purity and constitution of the House. A debate followed, and a division taking place, the motion was lost by 216 against 167. Charges of corrupt practices in influencing the returns of members to parliament were afterwards brought against Mr. Perceval and Lord Castlereagh, by Mr. Madocks, who made a motion on the subject, which was negatived. These discussions having led to the subject of parliamentary reform, several motions were made, and plans introduced, for this purpose; one of which, by Mr. Curwen, for "leave to bring in a bill for better securing the purity and independence of parliament, by preventing the procuring or obtaining seats in parliament by corrupt practices, and likewise, more effectually to prevent bribery," was carried; and the bill framed upon it passed the House by a majority of 97 to 85, and afterwards became a law.

The subject of augmentation of the army, recommended to parliament in the King's speech, was early taken into consideration by a motion from Lord Castlereagh for a bill for enlistment into the militia. This having passed, he followed it by moving for a bill to complete to its full number the militia of Great Britain, the object of which was to replace the number of men rendered defective by the bill of last session for allowing the militia soldiers to volunteer into the line. The number so transferred amounted to about 23,000, and his proposal was to replace them by 24,000, namely, half of the whole militia quota, within 12 months. The bill underwent some opposition in both Houses, but finally passed into a law.

On May 12th the chancellor of the exchequer laid before the House of Commons his budget for the year. The amount of supplies for Great Britain and Ireland was stated at 53,862,000*l.* and among the ways and means were, war-taxes 19 millions, and a loan of 11 millions, for Great Britain. The loan was contracted for at a lower rate of interest than money had ever before been borrowed on the public account; a consequence pro-

bably, of the stagnation of foreign trade. A lottery being a part of the ways and means, strong objections were made to so pernicious a mode of raising money, and the House dividing upon it, there appeared, for lotteries 90, against them 36. No new taxes were called for.

The session of parliament closed on the 21st of June.

The last year concluded with Sir John Moore's determination to make a second retreat from his advanced position in Spain, a movement now rendered absolutely necessary, not only by the additional force sent to his immediate antagonist Marshal Soult, but by the approach of Napoleon himself, who was advancing with an army from Madrid for the purpose of intercepting the British troops. The total relaxation of discipline which appeared in the British army as soon as they turned their faces backwards, and which rendered all the inhabitants on their passage their enemies, was a severe aggravation of the commander's difficulties, and called from him warm remonstrances to the officers and men. Great distresses were undergone from cold and hunger, and from the pursuing enemy, but the latter was gallantly repulsed in all his attacks; and after traversing 250 miles of mountainous country, the army reached Corunna on January 11th. It was followed to that place by Soult, who occupied an extensive line above the town, in readiness to make an attack as soon as the troops should begin to embark. On the 16th, this operation having been commenced, the French descended in four columns, when Sir John Moore directed a charge to be made upon them. As he was in the act of ordering up a succour to some of the foremost who were engaged, he received a mortal wound from a cannon ball; and thus his country was deprived of a man, who, both in his professional and his private character, had acquired the admiration and esteem of all who knew him. The action was maintained under General Hope, who succeeded to the command, with great vigour, and the British remained

masters of the field. The embarkation was effected in the following night without further molestation. In this unfortunate expedition the British army lost all its ammunition and magazines, and five or 6000 men. It had, however, the good effect of drawing off the attention of the French Emperor from the South of Spain, which at that time lay entirely open to his enterprizes.

Corunna capitulated soon after the departure of the army, and the French also obtained possession of Ferrol, Bilboa, St. Andero, and all the most important places on the northern coast of Spain. They were successful in different actions in other parts, and appeared intent upon the subjugation of the whole country, when on January 22d, Napoleon, foreseeing a breach with the Austrian court, set out on his return to Paris, followed by his imperial guard. From that time the French in Spain during some months acted on a more limited scale, concentrating their force, and aiming chiefly at retaining their acquisitions in the northern provinces and the interior, securing the communication between Madrid and the French frontier, and completing the reduction of the towns and districts on the east of the Ebro. Saragossa, a second time besieged, after a most obstinate defence, was obliged to surrender at discretion on February 14th. On the other side, several places in Asturias and Biscay were retaken by the patriots assisted by English ships of war, and all Galicia was evacuated by the French troops. Marshal Soult having entered Portugal at Braga, took possession of Oporto on March 29th, after a resistance of two days only. Sir Arthur Wellesley, landing at Lisbon with a reinforcement of troops on April 22d, proceeded to take the command of the British army at Coimbra, and advanced against Oporto; while at the same time, Marshal Beresford, at the head of a body of Portuguese, which he had disciplined in the English manner, marched to the Upper Douro. Soult, having been obliged to quit Oporto, commenced a retreat through the province of Leon, leaving his rear-guard upon the Douro. A French army under Marshal Victor in

Estremadura was attacked on March 28th, by the Spanish General Cuesta, at Medellin on the Guadiana, when, after a severe action, the Spaniards were entirely defeated with great loss. This disaster recalled Sir Arthur Wellesley from the pursuit of Soult to the south; and after remaining some time at Lisbon, he formed a junction with Cuesta, who had repaired his losses, and they proceeded along the valley of the Tagus against Victor, who, being joined by General Sebastiani, and having received a reinforcement from Madrid brought by King Joseph, was posted near Talavera la Reyna. On July 27th, an action was brought on by an attack on the part of the French, chiefly directed against the British troops, who had to contend against more than double their number. It terminated in a complete repulse of the French, who lost 20 pieces of cannon and a great number of men. The loss of the British was nearly 6000 in killed, wounded, and missing. Not long after, advice being received that Soult, Ney, and Mortier had made a junction, and were advancing through Estremadura to fall on the rear of the British, it was found necessary for the latter to retreat without delay. Cuesta was left at Talavera with the sick and wounded, whence he was obliged to withdraw, leaving about half of them in the hands of the French. Wellesley, crossing the Tagus, continued his retrograde march till he arrived at Badajoz.

In the north-eastern part of Spain, after the fall of Saragossa, an army under General Reding, employed in attempts to succour Gerona, then besieged by the French, was attacked near Tarragona and entirely routed. Reding was afterwards joined by the united army of Valencia and Arragon, commanded by General Blake, who made an attempt to recover Saragossa on June 1st, but was repulsed with loss. Blake was afterwards attacked at Belchite by Suchet, when the whole Spanish army, taking a panic, fled without firing a shot, throwing down their arms, and abandoning their baggage. Nine pieces of cannon, and 3000 prisoners, fell into the hands of the French, and Blake,

deeply mortified, quitted Arragón, and employed himself at a distance in disciplining his troops. In August, the Spanish General, Venegas, descending from the Sierra Morena, took a position not far from Toledo, where he was attacked by a French corps under Sebastiani, and completely routed. The Marquis of Ariczagaga, who succeeded him in the command, having collected 50,000 men, made a bold advance upon Madrid, in which he was opposed by a French army headed by King Joseph. On November 19th, an action was brought on at Ocana, which terminated in a signal victory on the side of the French, the consequence of which was the reduction of Cordova and Seville, leaving a free access to Cadiz. Girona, after a very long and heroical resistance, was obliged to capitulate on the 10th of December; and thus, at the close of 1809, Spain had scarcely an invested fortress untaken, or an army remaining in the field. The Junta, sensible that they had lost the public confidence after these disasters, issued a proclamation for the assembling of a national Cortes at the beginning of the ensuing year.

The insatiable ambition, and contempt of all public rights, which the French Emperor had displayed by his usurpation of Spain and deposition of its whole royal family, could not fail of alarming every remaining independent sovereign in Europe; and the Emperor of Austria, smarting under the sacrifices he had already been obliged to make in his contest with France, and dreading farther encroachments, resolved again to try the fortune of war, at a time when so large a proportion of the military force of that country was engaged in completing the subjugation of the Spanish peninsula. He had given proof of his alienation from the French interests, by causing his internuncio at Constantinople to assist the English minister in his negotiations for peace with the Porte, complaints of which conduct were made in the official paper at Paris, the *Moniteur*. Levies of men throughout the Austrian dominions, and augmentations of the frontier garrisons, were indications of an approaching rupture, which, as

before mentioned, hastily recalled Napoleon from Spain; and they occasioned on his part the marching of the troops at his disposal towards the Danube, and a demand on the Rhenish confederacy to furnish its contingent. War was declared in proclamations from the Archduke Charles and the Emperor Francis, dated April 6th and 8th, which were followed by a manifesto, stating the provocations and causes of alarm given by France to Austria. The whole Austrian army consisted of nine corps of 30 or 40,000 men each, besides some bodies of reserve and detached parties, and the militia or land-wehr. On the opposite side were three corps of French troops, three divisions of Bavarians, and bodies of Wurtembergers, Saxons, and Poles; for Napoleon now possessed the advantage, like the great monarchs of old, of leading vassal kings to fight under his command. The Austrians crossed the Inn on April 9th, and at the same time their right wing was advanced on the Danube above Ratisbor. Napoleon, leaving Paris on the 13th, arrived at Donawert on the 17th, where he fixed his head-quarters. The different French corps then began to unite. On the 20th and 22d two battles were fought, one at Abensberg, by Napoleon in person, against the Archduke Lewis; the other at Eckmühl, against the Archduke Charles; in which the Austrians are stated by the French accounts to have had 40,000 men taken prisoners with 100 pieces of cannon. The Archduke Charles then crossed the Danube at Ratisbon, in order to form a junction with General Bellegarde, and some Austrians who made a stand were put to the rout, and the city was taken by the French. Napoleon pushing forward with his usual rapidity along the course of the Danube, appeared before Vienna on May 10th, which had been quitted by the Emperor, who withdrew to Znaim. After a show of resistance for a short time, the regular troops in the capital effected their retreat, and the city surrendered. Napoleon then issued a proclamation to the Hungarians, urging them to declare their independence on the house

of Austria, and elect a sovereign of their own, and promising them his protection.

- .. The Archduke Charles, in the meantime, having with extraordinary celerity reinforced his army to the number of 75,000 men, moved along the left bank of the Danube for the purpose of preventing any attempt of the enemy to cross that river. On the 16th, his head-quarters were at Ebersdorf, on the road from Vienna to Brunn, when Napoleon, marching his army to a part of the Danube about six miles below the capital, where its stream is broken by two islands, determined to cross the river at that point in order to attack the Archduke. By means of bridges of pontoons he passed from island to island, and thence to the north bank, where he extended his troops so that the right wing took post at the village of Kessling, and the left at that of Aspern. The Archduke now resolved upon a general attack on the French, and having arranged his army in order of battle, he moved forward on May 21st, on which, and the following day, two of the most sanguinary and well-contested actions in the war between these great powers took place. After a variety of fortune, the French, on the night between the 22d and 23d, retreated from the left bank of the Danube, and took a position in the island of Lobau, their loss having probably amounted in killed, wounded, and prisoners, to 30,000 men. It was the severest check which the victorious career of Napoleon had yet received.

During these occurrences, the arms of the French and their allies had found employment in other quarters.

An insurrection against the new system in Germany broke out in Saxony, Westphalia, and Hanover, headed by Colonel Schill and the Duke of Brunswick Oels, which for a time wore a formidable appearance, and spread over a wide tract of country; but it was at length terminated by the death of the brave Schill, who was killed in Stralsund, and the embarkation of the Duke of Brunswick with his few troops on board of

some English ships of war, from the northern coast of Germany. The Archduke Ferdinand had supported these movements by an army in Poland, which had taken possession of Warsaw, and afterwards of Dresden, and Leipsic, and had threatened the dominions of King Jerome in Westphalia. The Archduke John acted in Italy, where at first he met with great success, having taken Padua, and Vicenza, crossed the Adige, and alarmed Venice. He was, however, stopped in his progress by the Viceroy of Italy, Eugene Beauharnois, who recovered the places taken, drove the Austrians across the Tagliamento, and followed them in their retreat. A severe engagement took place between the two armies at Raab, which terminated in favour of the French, after which the Archduke retreated to Comorn in Hungary, and Beauharnois made a junction with the grand French army.

The armies of Napoleon and the Archduke Charles after the late battles passed some weeks in the inaction proceeding from mutual exhaustion; but General Bertrand having with great expedition raised three bridges from the island occupied by the French, to the left bank of the Danube, their whole army crossed on the night of the 4th of July, and on the 5th appeared in order of battle on the left flank of the entrenched Austrian army. That day was chiefly spent in manœuvring, the consequence of which was that the Archduke was obliged to quit his entrenchments, and abandon the country between Enzersdorf and Wagram. Near the latter place, on the following day, the decisive battle of that name was fought, in which, according to the French accounts, from three to four hundred thousand men, with from twelve to fifteen hundred pieces of cannon, were brought into the field. By the generalship of Napoleon, who directed almost the whole fire of his artillery against the Austrian centre, that part was driven back two or three miles, which occasioned the retreat of the wings, and in the general rout of the Austrians, who retired towards Moravia. The field was strewed with innumerable dead, and the French calculated that this battle

reduced the Austrian army to 60,000 men. It was certainly a decisive action ; for on the 12th proposals for an armistice from the Emperor to Napoleon were carried by Prince John of Lichtenstein, which were immediately accepted. All the strong places and positions which might be advantageous to the French in case of a renewal of hostilities were given up to them, and it was expressly stipulated that the Austrians should give no succours to the revolted Tyrolese.

That brave people, detesting the yoke of Bavaria, took the occasion of the rupture between Austria and France, to break out into a general insurrection, in which they were for some time successful. A greater force being sent against them under Marshal Le Febvre, they took to their mountains and fastnesses, and carried on a desultory war, very harassing to their enemies, and even pushed their incursions to Bavaria, Carinthia, and the bordering parts of Italy. The most noted of their leaders was Andrew Hoffer, who, though in the humble condition of an innkeeper, possessed the spirit of a hero. Through his influence over the minds of the peasantry, the contest against France and Germany was persevered in till the close of the year, when he was discovered in his retreat, taken prisoner, and executed.

Peace between Austria and France was signed at Vienna on October 15th. By its conditions the Emperor Francis ceded to the French Emperor all those parts of his territory which touched upon the Adriatic ; cessions were also required from him of portions of territory, to the Rhenish confederacy, the King of Saxony, and the Emperor of Russia ; he recognised all the Kings of Napoleon's creation, and acceded to all the alterations he had made, or should hereafter make, in Spain, Portugal, and Italy. He also concurred in the prohibitory system with respect to English commerce, and agreed to break off all intercourse with the Court of Great Britain.

A revolution occurred in this year which added one to the many late examples of the instability of thrones.

The pertinacity with which the King of Sweden adhered to an alliance that brought upon him the enmity of the whole French confederacy, after the loss of Pomerania and Finland, and with no other support than a subsidy from England, could not fail of being extremely displeasing to his subjects, who had no motive to become willing sufferers, in a cause remotely connected with their interests. His violent and arbitrary character, also, was little calculated to conciliate the affections of a people who had not forgotten that they were once free; and indeed his conduct in several instances appeared inconsistent with mental sanity. A resolution was therefore adopted of removing him from a throne which he was incapable of filling. The discontents with his government were first manifested by a mutiny which broke out in the beginning of March among the troops on the frontier of Norway, probably fomented by their commander count Aldersparre, who marched with them towards Stockholm. Measures were in the meantime taken for a revolution in that capital; and on the 13th, as the King was preparing to depart for his country residence, he was arrested and committed to close custody, as were a few of his confidants. His uncle, the Duke of Sudermania, immediately issued a proclamation, as administrator of the kingdom, convoking a General Diet to assemble on the first of May; and he also published an address to the people of Stockholm, stating the unhappy circumstances to which the nation was reduced by the King's conduct, and the reasons which rendered it necessary to secure his person. No attempts were made in his favour, and the revolution did not cost a drop of blood. The diet elected the Duke of Sudermania King, and a new constitution was framed, by which the encroachments on public liberty by Gustavus III. were abolished, and the antient rights of the different states of Sweden were restored. This change was immediately followed by an armistice with Russia and Denmark, and a treaty of peace with the former power was ratified on September 17th. By its articles, the whole of Finland, and part of West Bothnia

as far as the river Tornea, with the islands nearest to Finland, were ceded in perpetuity to Russia. The King of Sweden engaged to adhere to the continental system, and to close the ports of the kingdom to English ships of war and merchantmen, with the exception of the importation of salt and colonial productions. Russia also mediated a peace between Sweden and France, which was not concluded till the beginning of the following year. It restored Swedish Pomerania and the isle of Rugen to the former country, and gave commercial advantages to France.

In the military transactions on the continent of Europe which remain to be related, Great Britain was particularly concerned.

In the beginning of June, Sir John Stuart, commander of the British army in Sicily, undertook an expedition against the kingdom and capital of Naples, the principal purpose of which, according to his representation, was to make a diversion in favour of Austria. Embarking with a body of 15,000 English troops, which was afterwards joined by a body of Sicilians, he appeared on the 13th off the coast of Calabria; when the enemy abandoned a line of posts on the shore opposite Messina, which were seized and dismantled by a detachment under Lieutenant-Colonel Smith. On the 21st the advanced division of the fleet anchored off Cape Miseno, and preparations were immediately made for an attack on the isle of Ischia. A descent being effected in the face of a formidable chain of batteries, the defences of the enemy were turned, and their principal force retired to the castle, which surrendered on the 30th. The adjacent garrison of Procida was also summoned and submitted on the same day, which circumstance occasioned the capture of 40 gun-boats in their passage from Gaeta to Naples. The result of this part of the enterprize was a loss to the enemy of more than 1500 prisoners, besides killed and wounded, and of nearly 100 pieces of ordnance, at a small expence to the victors. Such a force was now assembled for the defence of Naples, that no prospect was afforded of success in an

attempt against that capital; and the commander of the expedition contented himself with the satisfaction of witnessing the effect of his diversion, which was that of the sudden recal of a considerable body of troops detached as a reinforcement to the army of Upper Italy, and of those sent into the Roman states. That effect, however, had no lasting consequence. An unsuccessful attempt on the castle of Scylla, which the enemy afterwards abandoned, blowing up the works, concluded the military operations; and the fleet and army quitted the possession of the islands near Naples, and returned to Sicily.

An expedition of much greater moment occupied the attention of the British ministry during the summer, and was long the object to which the national expectations were principally directed. From the beginning of May, preparations were made for fitting out the greatest armament that for a long period had issued from the ports of this island; and towards the end of July an army of 40,000 men was collected, to be assisted by a fleet of 39 sail of the line, and 36 frigates, besides numerous gun-boats, bomb-vessels, and small craft. The chief command of the army was entrusted to the Earl of Chatham, a nobleman bearing indeed a name highly illustrious in the political world, but who had never obtained personal distinction in a military capacity. The naval force was placed under the direction of Sir Richard Strachan. The principal object of this expedition was to gain possession of the islands commanding the entrance of the Scheldt, and especially the port of Flushing, and to destroy the French men of war in that river, with the dock yards and arsenals, on which great labour had been bestowed, as an essential part of Napoleon's project for contending on equal terms with the navy of England. The armament set sail on July 28th, and on the first of August invested Flushing. A dreadful cannonade and bombardment commenced on the 13th, which on the 15th produced from the commander of the garrison, General Monnet, a request for a suspension of arms. It was followed by a surrender, which yielded near 6000

men prisoners of war. During the siege of this place a great number of troops from the Belgic and nearest French provinces was assembled for the defence of Antwerp, so that an attack upon that important place and the fleet lying under its fortifications, whatever might have been its success at the commencement of the enterprize, was now thought too unpromising to be hazarded; and although possession had been obtained of the islands of Walcheren and South Beveland, the forts higher up on the Scheldt had been put into such a state that an attempt to pass them by the men of war would probably have been attended with great loss. The troops were likewise becoming very sickly from their position in these low and marshy tracts in the most unhealthy season of the year. From these considerations Lord Chatham was induced to depart for England on September 14th with the greatest part of his army; the remainder were left to keep possession of Walcheren, for the purpose of blocking up the Scheldt, and affording an inlet for the British commerce into Holland, where the people were well disposed to admit colonial and other commodities. To the troops, however, this determination was extremely fatal. Numbers died on the spot, and many more brought back chronic diseases which long rendered the very name of the Walcheren fever a subject of terror. The opinions of the ministry relative to keeping or abandoning this pestiferous spot were in a state of fluctuation. In the middle of September a requisition was made for a number of the peasantry of the island to repair and strengthen the fortifications of Flushing; and near the end of October a hundred artificers arrived from England with brick and lime. Towards the middle of November the demolition of the works and basin for shipping was begun; and on December 23d Walcheren was completely evacuated by the relics of the British army, nearly one half of which was either dead or on the sick list. Thus terminated an expedition which, after a prodigious expense, totally disappointed the public hopes, and afforded a subject of mockery to the enemies of the nation.

In other quarters the arms and councils of Great Britain were attended with greater success.

On January 5th a treaty of peace was signed between the Ottoman Porte and England, negotiated by Mr. Elliot.

The French colony of Cayenne surrendered on January 12th to a combined force of English and Portuguese, the former being under the command of Captain James L. Yeo, of the navy.

On the 29th of that month, an expedition under General Sir G. Prevost and Admiral Sir A. Cochrane appeared off Martinique, and a landing upon the island was effected on the following day. After some severe actions in which the French were driven from various strong posts, they withdrew their troops to Fort Bourbon, which was immediately invested by the British. The place was captured with little farther loss on February 24th, and all resistance ceasing, the island was reduced under the dominion of his Britannic Majesty.

A French fleet of nine or ten sail of the line lying in the road of Aix-near Rochelle, protected by the forts of that island, Lord Cochrane, who was acting under the orders of Admiral Lord Gambier, proposed to make an attack upon it with a squadron of fire ships, frigates, and smaller armed vessels. Standing in with a favourable wind on April 11th, a boom laid across the entrance was broken through by the leading ship, and the greater part of the French ships slipped their cables and ran for the shore. On the following day Lord Cochrane gave information by telegraph to the Admiral, that seven of the enemy's ships were on shore in a situation which afforded an opportunity for destroying them. It being found, however, that the state of the wind rendered it hazardous to enter the roads, in which the water was shallow, with the large ships, Admiral Gambier, who had unmoored, anchored again three miles from the forts, and sent all the small vessels for the attack. Lord Cochrane, leading the way, opened a fire on a ship of 56 guns, which struck, and afterwards three others,

of the line, were forced to strike, all of which were set on fire and destroyed. The other French ships being got into deep water, moved up the river Charente, where it was impracticable to molest them, but it was doubtful whether all could be again got out to sea.

On July 6th the city of St. Domingo in the Spanish part of that island, of which the French were in possession, submitted without resistance to a force from Jamaica under the command of Major-General Carmichael.

In the same month the French settlement of Senegal capitulated to Major Maxwell of the African corps.

Lord Collingwood, naval commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, having proposed to General Sir J. Stuart an expedition against the Islands of Zante, Cephalonia, and others, whilst the French should be occupied with the defence of Naples, a joint force from Messina, Malta, and Corfu was arranged for this purpose, which anchored in the Bay of Zante on October 1st. On the following day a capitulation was agreed upon, by which all that group of islands surrendered to the British arms, and the government of the Sept-insular republic was restored.

A French fleet of three ships of the line, two frigates, two smaller frigates, with a convoy of about twenty vessels, being descried on October 23d coming from Toulon, Lord Collingwood directed Rear-Admiral Martin to proceed with a squadron in chase of them; and on the 25th, off the mouth of the Rhone, two of the French ships of the line were chased on shore, and set fire to by the crews, and the third, with a frigate, ran on shore at the entrance of the Port of Cette, with little chance of being got off. The convoy mostly escaped at the time into the Bay of Rosas; but on the 30th some ships with the boats of the fleet, under the orders of Captain Hallowell, entering into the bay, most gallantly overcame all the resistance made, as well from the vessels as the castle of Rosas and the forts, and captured or destroyed the whole, though not without considerable

loss. The lading of the convoy was for the supply of the French army in Spain.

A few circumstances remain to be added to the account of European transactions.

Napoleon's annexation of the papal territories to his kingdom of Italy was mentioned in the narrative of the last year. It produced a protest against this act of spoliation, and a sentence of excommunication against the author and instruments of it, from the pope, dated on June 10th. These measures occasioned the pontiff to be brought as a prisoner to Avignon, where he was stripped of his external dignity, and deprived of all communication with the cardinals, and all means of issuing bulls or convoking a council of the church. The French Emperor proceeded to settle a new government in the ecclesiastical states, by which the court of inquisition was abolished, the temporal jurisdiction of the clergy, regular and secular, was abrogated, the right of asylum was done away, and a variety of other regulations judicial and political were established. Rome was declared the second city in the empire, with a right of sending seven members to the legislative body. In November a deputation of Roman Dukes and Princes arrived at Paris, to present an address of homage to Napoleon on the late *happy* revolution, to which he made a gracious reply, entirely in the style of an Emperor of the West. Near the close of the year, at a full meeting of the Buonaparte family with their relatives, after representing the necessity of providing an heir to the throne on which providence had seated him, for which purpose his present marriage must be dissolved, the Empress Josephine testified her consent, both parties expressing the highest mutual regard and friendship. A note was then made of the transaction, signed by all present, which being laid before the senate, that body concurred in the divorce, and decreed the continuance of the imperial title to Josephine, with an annual revenue of two millions of francs.

War was renewed in this year between Russia and Turkey. At the congress of Yassi between the two

powers, Russia demanded, as a preliminary, the cession of the Turkish provinces on the left bank of the Danube, which being rejected, the congress broke up. Russia then declared war, upon the sole pretext of the peace concluded with England by Turkey. In the military operations which followed, the Russians kept their ground in Moldavia and Wallachia, and pushed forward into Bulgaria. At length, after several actions, particularly a very bloody battle at Silistria, they were obliged to recross the Danube.

In the United States of America, Mr Madison was elected to succeed Mr. Jefferson as president. The embargo having become very unpopular, an act was passed by the legislature which repealed that measure, and substituted a prohibition of intercourse with France and England, with the proviso, that if either nation should cease to violate the neutral commerce of the States, the suspended trade with such nation might be renewed. A treaty was at length signed with the United States for the restoration of amity and commerce, by Mr. David Erskine, envoy and plenipotentiary from the Court of Great Britain, in consequence of which, a number of American ships sailed for the British ports; but it unfortunately happened that the two governments misunderstood each other; for the English government disavowed what had been agreed on, upon the ground that Mr. Erskine had exceeded his powers. It was however provided that no loss should accrue to those Americans who had proceeded to England in confidence of the treaty, till after a certain interval.

The ill success of many of the measures adopted by the English ministry in this year, as it produced great dissatisfaction in the nation, also naturally occasioned variance among themselves; and the public were apprized of a dissention subsisting between two of the secretaries of state, Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Canning, by a duel between them on September 22d, which terminated in a wound received by the latter. The cause of the quarrel is stated to have been an attempt by

Mr. Canning to effect the removal of Lord Castlereagh, if not entirely from the ministry, at least from the post which he held, on the ground of incapacity for fulfilling its duties. Both of them, before the duel, resigned their offices. The Duke of Portland dying soon after, an offer was made by the remaining ministers of a coalition with Lord Grey and Grenville, which was rejected. The Marquis of Wellesley was then recalled from his embassy in Spain to take the place of secretary of foreign affairs before held by Mr. Canning. At the same time, that of secretary for the war department, held by Lord Castlereagh, was transferred to the Earl of Liverpool (late Lord Hawkesbury) whose home secretaryship was assigned to the Honourable Richard Ryder. Mr. Perceval joined the office of first lord of the treasury to that of chancellor of the exchequer.

If the administration were injured in their popularity by the late train of events, no part of this displeasure fell upon the King, who seems to have gained ground upon the affections of his subjects in proportion as advanced years and infirmities (for he had now nearly suffered a privation of sight) excited the feelings of commiseration in his behalf. The 25th of October, being the fiftieth celebration of his accession to the throne, was distinguished throughout the United Kingdom as a jubilee, and was marked by every demonstration of loyal attachment and reverence.

A.D. 1810.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 50 & 51.
 ——— PARLIAMENT 3 & 4.

Royal Speech, and Debates.—*Enquiry into the Expedition to the Scheldt.*—*Censure and Resignation of Lord Chatham.*—*Mr. Yorke's Motion for excluding Strangers from the House of Commons on the above Enquiry.*—*Its Consequences relative to Gale Jones and Sir Francis Burdett.*—*The latter conveyed to the Tower.*—*Riots.*—*Popular Honours paid to him.*—*Budget.*—*Bill moved for rendering perpetual the Prohibition of granting Offices in Reversion.*—*Progress of the French in the South of Spain.*—*Malaga and Seville taken, and Cadiz besieged.*—*Other events in the East and North-east.*—*Campaign on the borders of Portugal.*—*Ciudad Rodrigo and Almeida reduced by the French.*—*They enter Portugal.*—*Lord Wellington's Plan of Retreat.*—*Position of the two Armies near Lisbon.*—*The Cortes assembled, and their Proceedings.*—*Marriage of Napoleon to the Archduchess Louisa Maria.*—*The Seven Dutch Provinces annexed to the French Empire.*—*Other Annexations in the North of Germany.*—*Despotism prevalent in France.*—*Affairs of Sweden.*—*Marshal Bernadotte elected Crown Prince.*—*Dunes: Isle of Anholt taken by the English.*—*Attempts of the King of Naples against Sicily defeated.*—*Campaign between the Turks and Russians.*—*Wahabees.*—*Santa Maura taken by the English.*—*Gaudaloupe surrendered.*—*Islands of Bourbon and France reduced.*—*Ambogna and Banda taken.*—*Failure of an Expedition against the Harbour of Sud-Est.*—*Differences between Great Britain and the States of America still unsettled.*—*Commencement of the Revolt of the Spanish Colonies in South America from the Mother Country.*—*Confederation of Venezuela.*—*Death of the Princess Amelia.*—*Relapse of the King, and Proceedings towards establishing a Regency.*—*Distresses of Manufacturers, and Depreciation of the Loan.*—*Discontents in Ireland.*

ON the opening of the parliamentary session, January 23d, it was obviously an embarrassing task for ministers so to frame a royal speech, as that it might not

give scope to severe attacks from the opposition, who had such a theme for censure as the failures and misfortunes of the preceding year. There was little room for congratulation, and confession or apology could scarcely be ventured; the necessary topics, however, were touched upon in the following manner. The commissioners in his Majesty's name expressed his deep regret at the disadvantageous termination of the Emperor of Austria's efforts to resist the ambition and violence of France, and observed, that although the war was undertaken without encouragement from his Majesty, yet that every practicable assistance had been afforded to Austria. This was said to have been one purpose of the expedition to the Scheldt, from which, though its principal ends had not been attained, it was hoped that material advantage would result in the future prosecution of the war, through the demolition of the docks and arsenals of Flushing. Directions had been given to lay before parliament the papers relative to this expedition. With respect to Sweden, it was said that his Majesty's wish had been uniformly notified to that power, that upon the question of peace or war with France, she should be guided by considerations resulting from her own situation and interests. The affairs of Portugal and Spain were then alluded to, and notice was taken of the expulsion of the French from the former country by Lord Wellington, and of his glorious victory at Talavera. The approaching assembly of the Cortes in the name and under the authority of King Ferdinand, was mentioned as affording a prospect of energy in the cause of Spanish independence, and an inducement to contribute the power and resources of this country in its support. The unexpected interruption of the intercourse between his Majesty's minister in America and the government of the United States, was then regretted; but it was said that the American minister at this court had given the strongest assurances of the wish of the States to maintain a friendly relation between the two countries. It was, in fine, observed, that the accounts of the trade

and revenue of the country would be found highly satisfactory; and that the inveterate hostility of our enemy would require the utmost efforts of vigilance, fortitude, and perseverance, in resisting his designs.

The corresponding address moved in the House of Lords was first encountered by Lord St. Vincent, in a very severe censure of the measures of government. He was succeeded by Lord Grenville; who moved an amendment to the address, conceived in strong terms of inculcation of the ministers, and expressing a resolution to institute a rigorous and effectual enquiry into the source of our disasters. The amendment was opposed as being in fact a vote of anticipated condemnation; and in the debate which ensued, every argument in attack and defence that ingenuity could suggest to the opposite speakers was made use of, on discussing the plan and conduct of the different warlike operations. The House then divided on Lord Grenville's amendment, which was rejected by 144 against 92.

In the House of Commons the motion for the address produced one for an amendment, by Lord Gower, nearly in the same terms with that moved in the Lords; and it occasioned a debate of a similar character. It is observable, that in both Houses, the merits of Sir John Moore were a prevailing topic in the speeches of the opposition, who accused the ministers of having encouraged attacks upon him by party writers; while, on the other hand, they were free in their strictures on the conduct of Lord Wellington, whose advance into Spain they censured as rash and unadvised, and whose victory at Talavera they considered as an useless success. The Walcheren expedition was of course a fertile topic of severe animadversion. The appointment of Lord Chatham to the command having been one of the topics of blame, Mr. Perceval, in his reply, contented himself with saying, that "the result of the enquiry, if any enquiry were thought necessary, would, in a great measure, decide the question of the propriety or impropriety of the appointment of that noble

lord to the command of the expedition." The amendment to the address in the House of Commons was negatived by 263 to 167.

After various other proceedings, in which the same subjects were indirectly brought under discussion, Lord Porchester, on January 26th, made a direct motion in the House of Commons, "That a committee be appointed to enquire into the policy and the conduct of the late expedition to the Scheldt." This motion was carried by the small majority of 195 to 186, and a committee of the whole house was fixed on for the purpose. His lordship afterwards moved for an address to the King for copies of instructions given to the commanders and other papers, which was agreed to; and a secret committee was nominated for the inspection of such confidential communication as was deemed improper to be made public. Among the papers was found a "Copy of the Earl of Chatham's statement of his proceedings, dated Oct. 15th, 1809, and presented to the King, Feb. 14th, 1810." This, from its contents, appeared to be an appeal to his Majesty by the commander of one part of the expedition, against the conduct of the commander of another part, and the circumstance occasioned much debate in the house. A motion being made by Mr. Whitbread for an address to his Majesty, requesting that there might be laid before the house copies of all reports and other papers submitted at any time to his Majesty by the Earl of Chatham relative to the late expedition, was carried on a division by 178 to 171. The answer returned to the address signified, that the King had received a report from Lord Chatham on January 15th, which he had kept till February 10th, when it was returned to the Earl in consequence of his desire to make some alterations in it; that the report thus altered having been again presented to the King on the 14th, it was directed by his Majesty to be delivered to the secretary of state, and no copy of it was kept by the King; nor had the Earl presented to him any other paper relative to the expedition in question. Mr. Whitbread on March 2d,

moved two resolutions respecting this matter; one stating the fact as above mentioned; the other a strong censure of the same. After a long debate, the previous question being moved, was negatived by 221 to 188; and the first resolution being then carried, Mr. W. waved the second, and admitted a modification of it proposed by Mr. Canning. It was then determined that the resolution should be entered on the journals of the House; and the consequence was, that Lord Chatham resigned his office of master-general of the ordnance.

If the ministers sustained a defeat in this personal concern arising out of the expedition to the Scheldt, the result of the main enquiry relative to it, going on in the House of Commons, was in their favour, though barely so. The resolutions moved by Lord Porchester in condemnation of the expedition and its management were negatived by 275 against 227; and of two motions by General Crawford, the first approving the conduct of ministers with regard to the policy of the expedition, was carried by 272 against 232; the second, approving the retention of Walcheren, was carried by 255 to 232.

A circumstance incidentally connected with this enquiry was productive of consequences which rendered the present session memorable in parliamentary history. Mr. Yorke on February 1st, gave notice that when the enquiry should be gone into, he should enforce the standing order for excluding strangers from the house, which he accordingly carried into effect on the next day. This measure occasioned a motion from Mr. Sheridan on the 6th, for a committee of privileges to take the standing order into consideration, his purpose in which he affirmed to be not to rescind the order, but to have it ascertained whether any, or what, modification of it was necessary. In the debate which ensued, Mr. Windham, in opposing the motion, made some observations which seemed like an attack upon the liberty of the press with respect to public proceedings. In conclusion, Mr. Sheridan's motion was negatived by 166 votes to 80. There was at this time a debating society in London under the name of the *British Forum*, the pre-

sident of which was John Gale Jones. On February 19th, an advertisement was pasted on the walls, which informed the public that a question had been debated at the British Forum, "Which was a greater outrage on the public feeling, Mr. Yorke's enforcement of the standing order to exclude strangers from the House of Commons, or Mr. Windham's attack on the liberty of the press? and that it was unanimously decided, that the enforcement of the standing order ought to be censured as an insidious and ill-timed attack on the liberties of the press," &c.

Mr. Yorke having brought this paper before the cognizance of the House, an order was made for the printer of it to attend at the bar, who declared that he had been employed to print it by John Gale Jones. Jones being ordered to attend, February 21st, avowed that he was the author of the paper, and said that he had considered it as the privilege of every Englishman to animadvert on public measures and the conduct of public men; but that on looking over the paper again, he found that he had erred, for which he expressed his sincere contrition, and threw himself upon the mercy of the House. A vote then passed the House unanimously "That J. Gale Jones had been guilty of a gross violation of the privileges of the House;" which was followed by a motion from Mr. Yorke for his commitment to Newgate; and this also passed unanimously. On March 12th Sir Francis Burdett, who had not been present at the former proceedings, called the attention of the House to the subject by an attempt to induce them to retract a step which, he said, they were not authorized to take; and he endeavoured by a train of argument to prove that the imprisonment of Jones was an infringement of the law of the land, and a subversion of the principles of the constitution; concluding with a motion for his discharge. Mr. Sheridan said he should certainly vote for the release of Jones, but not on the principles contained in the speech of the honourable baronet; and he moved, as an amendment, that he should be discharged in consequence of the contrition he had expressed, and

the time that had passed from his imprisonment. This amendment was rejected without a division, and the original motion was then negatived by a majority of 153 to 14.

On the 24th of March there appeared in a weekly political paper, a letter entitled "Sir Francis Burdett to his Constituents, denying the power of the House of Commons to imprison the people of England;" accompanied with the argument which he had used in the House of Commons. This publication was brought before the House on the 26th, by Mr. Lethbridge, at whose desire the Speaker put the question to Sir F. Burdett, whether he acknowledged himself to be the author, which he answered in the affirmative. Notice was then given by Mr. Lethbridge of a motion on the subject, which he made on the following day. After reading several of the most obnoxious passages in the letter and argument, he moved two resolutions; the first, affirming that the publication in question was a libellous and scandalous paper, reflecting upon the just rights and liberties of the House; the second, that Sir Francis Burdett, who suffered the above to be printed with his name, had been guilty of a violation of the privileges of this House. These resolutions being agreed to without a division, a motion was made by Sir Robert Salisbury for his commitment to the Tower. An amendment was proposed, softening the sentence to a reprimand, which was rejected by 190 votes to 152; and the Speaker signed the warrants for commitment, and delivered them to the serjeant at arms, April 6. That officer, going to the house of Sir Francis, was informed that he would be ready to receive him on the next morning; which being construed by that officer as implying that he would go with him peaceably to the Tower, he retired. He however returned, accompanied by a messenger, who said that the serjeant had been severely reprimanded by the Speaker for not having executed the warrant; on which Sir Francis disputed the legality of the warrant, and declared his determination not to go unless constrained

by actual force, which he would resist as far as lay in his power. After a delay, proceeding from the Speaker's doubts respecting his authority, concerning which he obtained the opinion of the attorney-general, the serjeant went on the morning of April 9th, attended by a number of police officers, and a detachment of cavalry and infantry, to convey Sir Francis to the Tower. An entrance was forced into the house through the area, and the serjeant with the police officers went up into a room where Sir Francis was sitting with his family, and acquainted him that he was his prisoner. He repeated his objections to the warrant, and declared that he would yield only to actual force; when the constables advancing to seize him, he was led by his brother and a friend, taking his arms, and conducted to the carriage in waiting, whence he was conveyed to the Tower without opposition. As the escort which guarded the prisoner was on its return, a numerous mob assembled in Eastcheap attacked them with stones and brick-bats, which they bore for some time with great patience. At length the attack becoming serious, some shots were fired, by which two or three lives were lost, and several persons were wounded. On two preceding evenings the mob assembled round the house of Sir Francis in Piccadilly, and committed many outrages in that and the adjacent streets, which rendered the aid of the military necessary to disperse them. A letter sent by Sir Francis to the Speaker after his receipt of the warrant, which was conceived in terms very disrespectful to the authority of the House, became a topic of debate on April 10th, with regard to the manner in which it should be treated; but a resolution was at length unanimously passed "That it is the opinion of this House that the said letter is a high and flagrant breach of the privileges of the house; but it appearing from the report of the serjeant at arms, that the warrant of the Speaker for the commitment of Sir Francis Burdett to the Tower has been executed, this House will not, at this time, proceed further on the said letter."

Sir Francis brought actions at law against the Speaker of the House of Commons for issuing his warrant, against the serjeant at arms for executing it, and against the constable of the Tower for keeping him in custody, in all which he failed, on the plea of the legality of the warrant. His legal defeats were however compensated to him by the numerous instances of attachment which he received as the champion of popular rights, in the form of addresses to himself, and petitions to parliament for his liberation. Some of the latter, especially those from his Westminster constituents, and from the freeholders of Middlesex, were so severe and contemptuous in their expressions to the House, that they were not received. His confinement was not terminated till the prorogation of parliament, when a triumphal procession from the Tower to his house was planned by his friends; but he disappointed their expectations by a silent return by water, for which he gave the prudential reason of avoiding any occasion of further mischief.

On May 16th the chancellor of the exchequer brought before the House of Commons his annual budget of finance. The supplies voted were stated at 50,566,000*l.* for Great Britain and Ireland; and among the ways and means for the former were the war taxes, estimated at nineteen and a half millions, and a loan of eight millions. No new taxes were proposed, and a very favourable report was made of the commerce and general prosperity of the country. The foreign subsidies of the year were 400,000*l.* to Sicily, and 900,000*l.* to Portugal; and a vote of credit for 3 millions was passed to meet emergencies. A loan of one million and a half was voted to the East India Company.

Early in the session, Mr. Bankes made a motion for rendering perpetual the act for preventing the grant of offices in reversion. A bill for this purpose passed the House of Commons, but was thrown out at the second reading by the Lords. Mr. Bankes afterwards introduced a new bill for the same purpose, with some alterations.

The subject of the slave trade was introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Brougham, and in the House of Lords by Lord Holland, by motions for addresses to the King, requesting him to persevere in his measures to induce other nations to co-operate in the abolition of the slave trade, and to take such further steps as might be necessary. Mr. Brougham, in his proposed address, stated that persons in this country continued to carry on this traffic in a clandestine and fraudulent manner, and prayed that orders for checking such practices might be given to the commanders of his Majesty's vessels, and the officers of the customs. Both these addresses were voted without opposition; and a resolution moved by Mr. Brougham for taking measures early in the next session to prevent evasions of the act abolishing the slave trade, was also unanimously agreed to.

The session of parliament terminated on June 21st.

At the beginning of this year, the cause of Spanish independence was rendered almost desperate. The battle of Ocana had left no force in the least able to oppose the French in the field; and although the supreme junta at Seville published an address to the Spanish nation, calculated to animate their patriotism and quiet their apprehensions, the forced loan which they required of half the specie possessed by individuals, with other sacrifices and exertions, were measures which their influence and reputation were not adequate to carry into effect. About the middle of January, the French main army arrived at the foot of the Sierra Morena, and on the 20th and 21st they forced their way through the passes of the mountains almost without resistance. They advanced to Jaen and Cordova, in which cities they found large quantities of ordnance and military stores. General Sebastiani with his division then marched for Granada, and having routed the relics of the Spanish army from Ocana, he entered that city, which threw open its gates to him on the 28th. Malaga, in which a popular insurrection had deposed the regular authorities as being favourers of the French usurpation,

and the country around which had risen in arms at the instigation of the priests and monks, was the next object of Sebastiani's operations. With his advanced guard he cleared the fastnesses of the mountains; and encountering the numerous but disorderly mass of opponents on the plain, he put them to the rout with considerable slaughter, and entered the city of Malaga with the fugitives. A contest was for some time kept up in the streets and from the houses, but at length all the inhabitants made their submission, except some who took refuge on board of three English men of war in the harbour. This was an important conquest, as it completed a line of posts occupied by the French from the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean, and intersecting the whole of Spain through its capital.

King Joseph on January 29th issued a manifesto to the Spanish nation, in which he affected to consider the contest, which had never been dubious, as now decided; and reminded them, that it was the interest of France to preserve the integrity and independence of Spain, but if she should still remain an enemy, France must seek to weaken, dismember, and destroy her. Immediately after this menace, Marshal Victor appeared before Seville, from which the supreme junta had withdrawn to the Isle of Leon near Cadiz on his approach. That city was surrounded by fortifications of vast extent, but the defence of them would have required 60,000 men, whereas its garrison did not exceed 7000. Capitulation was therefore the only measure thought of, and the terms offered to the garrison were either to enlist in the army of King Joseph, or to lay down their arms and return to their homes. On February 10th the gates were opened to the French, who found in the place 100 pieces of ordnance, and a great quantity of arms, ammunition, and provision.

The junta, who in this emergency appeared in general more attentive to their own interests, than to the national cause, and who were suspected of an intention to enter into a compromise with Joseph, had refused to admit into Seville and Cadiz a body of 7000 British troops from

Lisbon, but suffered them to be disembarked in the bay of Cadiz, for the purpose of being stationed in the neighbouring towns. Two English regiments had been admitted into Cadiz, but upon a promise that they should on no account remain in the fortress. This jealousy occasioned a declaration from the English minister, that if the Spaniards would not consent to admit British troops into Cadiz, his Majesty must for the present withdraw from the contest, and leave it to be decided by the military efforts of Spain alone. On the irruption of the French into Andalusia, General Castanos, suspecting the designs of the junta, had sent a confidential letter to the Duke of Albuquerque, commander of the army in Estremadura, urging him to proceed with all possible celerity to Cadiz. With this he complied, and on February 3d entered that city with his troops. Preparations for defence were now made with the greatest activity. All persons capable of bearing arms were enrolled; magazines were established; and the whole Spanish fleet, amounting to 20 ships of the line, was moored in the harbour under the direction of the English Admiral Purvis, who brought in his own squadron. British troops both from Lisbon and Gibraltar were received into the isle of Leon, and an English reinforcement was admitted to the Spanish garrison of Ceuta. The suspicions against the supreme junta having occasioned tumults among the people of Cadiz, in which they incurred personal danger, they found it necessary to resign their authority, which, before the assembling of the Cortes, they conveyed to a regency of five persons; while a local junta was formed for the political and military government of the city.

On February 10th Marshal Soult sent a summons to the Duke of Albuquerque to surrender Cadiz, who returned an answer, stating the means of defence which he possessed, and his determination to make effectual use of them. A message of King Joseph to the junta of Cadiz for the like purpose produced a reply expressive of their resolved fidelity to King Ferdinand. The siege of Cadiz proceeded slowly, being much impeded by the

assaults of the Guerilla partizans, who now began to take an important part in the war. A reinforcement of troops with heavy artillery, however, arriving at the French lines in April, the besiegers took fort Matagorda, about two miles from the city, on which they erected new works whence the vessels entering Puntal roads were continually fired upon. By the close of the year, the French batterics were able to throw shells into Cadiz, but the distance rendered their effect inconsiderable.

The war was in the meantime carrying on with vigour in the southern and eastern part of Spain. General Blake, who was in Murcia reorganizing the defeated army of Ariezaga, roused to arms the hardy mountaineers of Alpujarras in Granada; and a detachment of Spanish troops under General Lacey, embarking at Algesiras, marched to Ronda, where a French force of 6000 men was stationed. These took a sudden panic and fled in disorder, leaving their arms and ammunition, which were distributed among the mountaineers, and for a considerable time a sanguinary warfare subsisted between them and the French. They were at length, however, driven to their fastnesses, but not subdued. The insurrection spreading to the mountains on the borders of Murcia, Sebastiani, in April, entered that province, and after a number of petty actions, obliged the Spaniards to retire to Alicant. A combined expedition of Spaniards and English sailed in August from Cadiz against Moguer, a town near the sea in the province of Seville, at which a French division was posted. The French were driven from the town and pursued; but upon the intelligence of a reinforcement advancing from Seville, the troops re-embarked, and returned to Cadiz. An enterprize against Malaga, undertaken from Gibraltar under the command of Lord Blaney, completely failed, and his lordship was taken prisoner.

Early in the year, the town of Hostalric in Catalonia having been taken by the French, siege was laid to its strong castle by General Souham. The Spanish General O'Donnel having drawn together a considerable force for the purpose of raising the siege, advanced on

February 20th to the plain of Vich, where an obstinate engagement was brought on, in which all the attempts to force the French line were frustrated, and the Spaniards were defeated with the loss of 3500 killed and wounded, and more than 3000 prisoners, besides 1000 Swiss in the Spanish service who laid down their arms in the field. The castle of Hostalric was afterwards taken, by which means the communication between Gerona and Barcelona was secured. Lerida was next reduced by Suchet, its garrison of 8000 men being made prisoners of war. The important fortress of Mequinenza, regarded as the key of the Ebro, yielded to his arms in June. After this success, Tortosa was invested by that general; and various attempts for its relief being defeated, and the vigorous sallies of the garrison only tending to their own loss, an offer of surrender was made on the first day of the following year. The conditions not being accepted, a fierce fire of cannon and mortars was resumed, and preparation was made for an assault, when the governor announced his submission to the terms insisted upon, and delivered his whole garrison prisoners of war. For this act he was tried at Tarragona by a court martial and condemned to death. The city of Valencia was more fortunate in its defence. Having been invested by Suchet, who had entered into a correspondence with some of the inhabitants for an insurrection within the place, the plot was discovered, and General Caro, marching out with the best of his troops, attacked the French, and defeated them with great slaughter. Such were the principal military events in this part of the peninsula.

Although the French had actively employed their superiority of force in extending their conquests through a considerable part of Spain, yet their great object in the campaign of this year was to obtain entire possession of Portugal. For this purpose it had been determined to make a commencement by the reduction of the strong fortresses of Ciudad Rodrigo and Almeida, the situation of which on the frontier between the two kingdoms would give them the command of a free military com-

munication from one to the other. As soon, therefore, as the capture of Oviedo and Astorga had set at liberty a part of the French troops employed to keep in check the Spaniards of the northern provinces, Marshal Ney began to invest Ciudad Rodrigo. In the meantime Marshal Massena arrived from France to take the command of the army destined for the conquest of Portugal, and consisting of about 80,000 men. The siege of Ciudad Rodrigo was long obstructed by different impediments, one of which was the vicinity of the Anglo-Portuguese army under Lord Wellington; at length the trenches were opened in the middle of June, Massena having arrived at the French camp, while Ney commanded the troops on the right bank of the Agueda, and Junot those on the left. A very formidable cannonade was kept up on both sides, till, on July 10th, the explosion of a mine having made a practicable breach which the besiegers were preparing to mount, the garrison surrendered at discretion, and about 7000 became prisoners of war. Almeida was next invested, and the trenches before it were opened in the middle of August. It was garrisoned by 5000 men, partly English, partly Portuguese, commanded by British officers, and its governor was Brigadier-General Cox. The vigour of the defence would probably long have retarded its fall, had not a bomb alighted upon the principal magazine of powder, which occasioned a terrible and most destructive explosion, and involved the town in flames. Massena withheld his fire, and sent a flag of truce offering terms of capitulation, which, after some time spent in negotiation, were acceded to on August 27th. The garrison were allowed the honours of war, but remained prisoners, except the Portuguese militia; who were allowed to return home, but many of them entered into the French service.

The great contest for the possession of Portugal was now to commence. Lord Wellington, to whom its defence was committed, had found it advisable to retire from Badajoz in December, to the north of the Tagus. In February the English and Portuguese

troops were posted at a number of different points in Portugal and its frontier on the side of Spain, Lord Wellington having his head quarters in the two following months chiefly at Viseu. During the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, the principal post of the army was Guarda, whence the French lines might be descried, but nothing of consequence could be undertaken for its relief. After the surrender of Almeida, Lord Wellington concentrated the different divisions of the combined army, and began his retreat towards Lisbon. He had formed a defensive plan to which he steadily adhered. As the army of Marshal Massena was much superior, at least in the number of troops on which reliance could be placed, he resolved to avoid general actions, but to make advantage of every opportunity of retarding the enemy's advance, by occupying strong positions. At the same time he put fully into practice the efficacious, though severe policy of rendering all the country in the line of march entirely inhospitable to the French, by stripping it of all its inhabitants, with the whole of their moveable property, the rest being destroyed. In consequence, he issued a proclamation on August 4th, by which all magistrates and persons holding offices under government who should remain in towns and villages after receiving orders from any military officer to depart, and all persons whatever who should hold communication with the enemy, were declared traitors to their country, and subjected to punishment as such.

On the 21st of September all the force under Massena was concentrated at Viseu, where it halted for a time, during which, Lord Wellington passed to the right of the Mondego, and occupied with his center and left wing the Sierra Buzaco which extends to that river. Massena, arriving in front of his position on the 26th, resolved upon an attack, which he put in execution on the following day. The French pushed up the heights with great courage in different parts, and one division reached the summit of the ridge; they were, however, met with equal resolution at the

point of the bayonet, and were finally repulsed with great loss, 2000 men being left on the field of battle. The loss of the English and Portuguese was also considerable. As the French had suffered no more than a repulse, Massena immediately turned the British position, and made a circuitous march upon Coimbra. Wellington arrived there first by a more direct route, but the place affording no advantages for defence, he continued his retreat to the strong lines of Torres Vedras, about 80 miles from Lisbon. He carried with him almost all the population of the intervening country, including that of Coimbra, with their portable effects, and much individual distress was the necessary consequence of such a removal. The sufferings of the poor Portuguese were, however, alleviated by liberal contributions in the capital, and by aids both public and private from England.

Massena, who closely followed the retreating army, after reconnoitering the admirably fortified and connected posts of the allied army, contented himself with fortifying his own position, and making collections of provision, which soon became very scarce in his army. His quarters were straitened by the Portuguese militia, which occupied the greatest part of the north-west, and a party of which, commanded by Colonel Trent, had entered Coimbra, and taken 5000 prisoners, chiefly sick and wounded. Massena made Santarem his head quarters, and extended his positions along the right bank of the Tagus, and thence to the Zezere, as far as the borders of Upper Beira. He received from Spain reinforcements of troops, and convoys of provisions; but he was subjected to difficulties and privations from which Lord Wellington's army, with the capital behind it, and the sea open for supplies of every kind, was exempted. Such was the situation at the close of the year of the two great armies which were to decide the fate of Portugal.

The Cortes of Spain, the object of the nation's hopes, after a long delay, assembled at Cadiz on September 24th. This body of national representatives

was elected by the provinces, cities, and provincial juntas, in a mode by which regard was paid both to population and property; and so zealous were the Spaniards for its formation, that the elections took place even in the districts occupied by the French. They could not, however, be complete at the time of their assembling, especially as it was determined that the colonies of Spain in the East and West Indies should partake in the representation. They were termed the General and Extraordinary Cortes, and the sovereign power was declared to reside in them. Their first measure was to swear fealty to King Ferdinand VII., and to declare the renunciations at Bayonne null and void, as being violent and unjust, and without the consent of the nation. The Cortes took the title of Majesty till the arrival of Ferdinand, and assumed the legislative power of the state. The executive was assigned *pro tempore* to the regency, on condition of taking an oath of allegiance to the Cortes: the regency was also to reside wherever the Cortes did, from which its members were not to absent themselves without permission. It was further decreed that a King of Spain could not marry, nor alienate his property, nor abdicate his throne, without the consent of the nation. It was also established as a fundamental principle, that the inhabitants of Spain had a right to redress of their grievances. The Roman Catholic religion was acknowledged, exclusively of all others. An act was immediately passed for a new levy of 150,000 men, and for the subsistence and equipment of all the existing armies. The enlightened spirit which actuated a majority of the assembly, was displayed by a decree for the liberty of the press, by which full permission was given for the printing of political sentiments, with the exception of defamatory, libellous, and immoral compositions. Religious discussion was, of course, inadmissible. The Cortes also resolved to publish their own proceedings in regular journals. In October the old regency was dissolved, and an exe-

cutive council of three members was nominated in its stead.

Of the events in the other parts of Europe, the first to be mentioned, and one of the most important, was the marriage of the French Emperor, for which his divorce from Josephine had prepared the way. At the end of February, he announced to the senate that he had dispatched the Prince of Neufchatel (Berthier) to Vienna to demand the hand of the Archduchess Louisa Maria, daughter of the Emperor Francis II. according to a contract which had been made, and which was doubtless a secret article in the late peace. The Archduke Charles received the hand of his niece as representative of his old antagonist, on March 11th; and the new Empress departed to share the throne of a low-born conqueror, who, in the estimation of the haughtiest court in Europe, was become the equal of hereditary sovereigns. This connection was regarded as conducing not less to the security than the lustre of the Corsican dynasty; and Napoleon might now pursue with increased confidence those schemes of aggrandizement which possessed his whole soul.

Proceeding in his plan of annexations, by which he proposed to round his *empire of the west*, he took within his grasp the Seven Dutch Provinces. They had, indeed, been a mere dependency of France under King Louis; but in the preceding December an intimation had been given of rendering them a component part of the French empire, to which they naturally belonged, as being no more than an *alluvion* of the Rhine, the Maese, and the Scheldt. French soldiers to the number of 40,000 men were gradually introduced into Holland, and troops were quartered at the mouths of the rivers, accompanied by French custom-house officers, in order to prevent all commerce with England. On June 29th notice was given to King Louis that the Emperor insisted upon the occupation of Amsterdam, which was to be made the head-quarters of the French. Louis, justly regarding himself as no longer a King,

resigned that nominal dignity in favour of his sons, and declared his Queen regent. On the day of his abdication he published a farewell address to the legislative body, in which he stated the circumstances which had rendered it necessary for him to sign a treaty with his brother the Emperor, whereby he had been deprived of all authority; and he advised them to receive the French with respect and cordiality. He expressed a warm affection for his late subjects; and indeed his conduct during his short reign had been such, that he always appeared the real friend of the people upon whom he had been arbitrarily imposed, and was too much a Dutchman to retain the favour of the Emperor of France. His act of abdication was considered as being of no validity, not having been previously concerted with the Emperor; and the Seven Provinces were inseparably annexed to the French empire.

Other annexations were those of the Valais, for the purpose of securing the passage of the Alps by the Simplon; and of the Hanse towns and the whole coast from the Elbe to the Ems — commanded, it was said, by circumstances. The electorate of Hanover was annexed to the kingdom of Westphalia, and its very name was abolished; and to that, and all the other dependent kingdoms, the conscription laws were extended. In France the chains of despotic power were rivetted by spies, arbitrary imprisonments, a rigorous police, and restrictions on the liberty of the press; and while the glory of the nation was raised to the highest pitch, all vestiges of its freedom were obliterated.

An event which in this year took place in Sweden may be ranked among the most extraordinary occurrences in European history. The Duke of Sudermania, elected King by the name of Charles XIII. in the place of the deposed Gustavus, being advanced in years, and without children, thought it necessary that a successor to the throne should be nominated. The diet accordingly made choice of Charles Augustus, Prince of Augustenburg, a subject of Denmark, who repaired to Stockholm in January, and received the homage of the

states. On May 29th, while he was reviewing some regiments of cavalry, he was attacked by a sudden disorder, fell from his horse, and soon after expired. His funeral was rendered tragical by a popular tumult, in which Count Fersen, the marshal of the kingdom, from an unfounded suspicion of having caused the Prince's death, was seized in the presence of a regiment of guards, and barbarously murdered. In August the states were assembled at Orebro for the election of another successor to the throne. The candidates were, the eldest son of the late Gustavus (whose children, however, were regarded as illegitimate); the Prince of Holstein, eldest brother of the deceased Prince of Augustenburg; the King of Denmark; and the French Marshal Bernadotte, Prince of Ponte Corvo. The latter was elected Crown Prince of Sweden by the general voice of all the orders composing the states; thus affording an example unprecedented in modern times, of an ancient monarchy rejecting every branch of its royal line, and spontaneously choosing for its future sovereign a soldier of fortune, a stranger, of humble origin, known to the nation only by his residence in the north of Germany as one of Napoleon's captains. That French interests influenced the election can scarcely be doubted; but it has not appeared that the Emperor took any direct part in the event; and as Bernadotte had acquired great wealth, and was liberal in the employment of it, influence of another kind may well be supposed to have had its share. The Crown Prince was installed on the 1st of November, when he addressed the diet in a speech judiciously adapted to the occasion. In the same month the Swedish government issued a decree of non-intercourse with Great Britain, and by declaring its adherence to the continental system, joined in the war against her.

The Danes continued to display their rooted hostility to this country by great activity in fitting out armed ships and gun-vessels to annoy its Baltic trade, in which they had considerable success. The Isle of Anholt in the Cattegat was however taken possession of by the

English, as an useful depository for prohibited merchandize.

The King of Naples, Joachim (Murat), collected in the beginning of July on the Calabrian coast a powerful armament by land and sea, for the purpose of an invasion of Sicily. The British commander, Sir John Stuart, made the best preparations for resisting the threatened attack, disposing all his troops in a line along the shore with a chain of communications, and guarding the whole coast by batteries and gun-boats. In the narrowest part of the straits a constant firing was kept up on both sides which was rather a spectacle than a serious conflict; but in repeated attacks on the Neapolitan flotilla a number of vessels were taken, destroyed, or dispersed. On September 18th a debarkation of 3500 Neapolitans and Corsicans was effected near the Faro, but two British regiments took 900 of them prisoners, and forced the rest to retreat to their gun-boats. On October 2d Joachim proclaimed that the expedition to Sicily was adjourned, the experiment having sufficiently proved that the enemy's flotillas could not obstruct the passage, when seriously attempted.

The Turks and Russians in this year persevered in their sanguinary war on the banks of the Danube, with no other apparent object than mutual destruction. Several bloody actions were fought, and the Russians took some towns in Bulgaria, but failed at Rûdshuck, Schumla, and Varna. The Turks, who acted with unusual vigour, sent a fleet into the Black Sea, and made a demonstration against the Crimea by way of a diversion in favour of the Grand Vizier. The Russians concentrating their forces, appeared to intend an irruption into Romania, which obliged the Grand Vizier with a part of his army to take post between them and Adrianople; and the Grand Seignior, displaying the banner of the prophet, marched to a small distance from Constantinople, whence he sent troops to join the Vizier. The war continued between the Turks and Servians, chiefly to the advantage of the latter. Notwithstanding the urgent demands on the Ottoman Court, an

army was also sent to Syria against the Wahabees, who had declared enmity with the Mussulmans. These people betook themselves likewise to piracy; and in April an armament was sent against them to the Persian gulf, by the English government at Bombay.

Several important successes, naval and military, chiefly in distant transmarine countries, decorated the British arms in this year.

In the month of March an expedition sailed from Zante against the island of Santa Maura in the Ionian sea, under the command of Captain Eyre of the *Magnificent*, and Brigadier-General Oswald, which, after a vigorous action, carried the fortress by storm, and made the garrison, about 700 in number, prisoners of war.

In the West Indies, Guadaloupe, the last island remaining to the French in that part of the world, surrendered on February 5th to a combined force commanded by General Sir G. Beckwith and Admiral Sir A. Cochrane.

The Isles of Bourbon and France in the Indian ocean, which had so long been a great annoyance to our East India trade, were in this year brought under the English dominion. Lord Minto, governor-general of India, having laid the plan for their reduction, a body of 1650 Europeans, and 1600 Sepoys, sailed from Madras, and being joined by 1000 more from the island of Rodriguez, the whole under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, with a fleet of men of war and transports, the expedition arrived early in July off the Island of Bourbon. Dispositions were made for an attack on the principal town, St. Denis, but it was prevented on the 8th by an offer to capitulate on honourable terms, which was accepted. The other town, St. Paul, was taken possession of on the 10th, and the whole island submitted.

A body of troops, consisting of 8 or 10,000 from India and the Cape of Good Hope, commanded by Major-General John Abercrombie, and a fleet under Admiral Bertie, rendezvoused at the isle of France, otherwise Mauritius, in November, and on the 29th the troops

effected a landing. Some skirmishing occurred till the artillery was landed, and preparations were made to attack the forts; when, on December 3d, a capitulation was proposed on the part of the French, and was signed on the same day. By its terms the island, with a vast quantity of stores and merchandize, five large frigates and some smaller ships of war, 28 merchant-men, and two captured English East Indiamen, were surrendered. The garrison was to be sent to France, and to be at their own disposal. This was the most valuable of the remaining French possessions to the eastward of the Cape of Good Hope. Three frigates were afterwards dispatched to destroy the French batteries at Tametava on the coast of Madagascar, and to root them out from some other small nestling places, which being effected, there was not left to France, at the beginning of the following year, a slip of land in either Indies, or a ship on the Indian ocean.

In the same part of the world farther conquests were also made upon the Dutch, the perpetual sufferers in the quarrels between France and England. On February 17th the Dutch settlement of Amboyna, with its dependent islands, was surrendered to a British force from Madras. A party of seamen, commanded by Captain Cole of the Carolina frigate, having on August 8th carried a fort upon Banda Neira, the whole island of Banda, the principal of the spice islands, with its dependencies, though protected by 700 regular troops and 300 militia, surrendered unconditionally, and afforded a rich prize to the captors.

One reverse to the British arms is to be placed in counterbalance to this train of success. Four English frigates, the *Sirius*, *Magicienne*, *Nereide*, and *Iphigenia*, on the Cape of Good Hope station, undertook in August to attack the harbour of Sud-Est in the isle of France, opposite the isle of Passe, into which three French frigates had carried two Indiamen, their prizes. The *Sirius* and *Magicienne* unfortunately ran aground upon shoals not known to their pilots, and were burnt by their crews. The *Nereide*, having stood in nearer to the

inner harbour, was also stranded, and though exposed to the fire of the enemy's frigates and the batteries on shore, was not surrendered by its brave Captain Wilmoughby till every man on board was either killed or wounded. The *Iphigenia*, closely blockaded in the isle of Passe, was afterwards taken, together with the island.

The differences between the governments of Great Britain and the United States of America, still remained un-adjusted. On the recall of Mr. Erskine, Mr. Jackson had been sent to succeed him as minister in America, where he found the government and public in a state of irritation against this country, on account of the disavowal of the agreement entered into by Mr. Erskine. The firm and unyielding tone taken by Mr. Jackson in his negotiations further contributed to render him unacceptable; and the American resident in London was instructed to demand his recall, which was complied with, but without the least intimation of displeasure with his conduct on the part of his Majesty. The American congress having passed an act on May 1st, providing that if either Great Britain or France should modify its edicts so as that they should cease to violate the neutral commerce of the United States, and if the other nation should not within three months thereafter do the same, the restriction of intercourse should cease with regard to the first nation, but remain in force with regard to the second; President Madison issued a proclamation on November 2d, declaring that the French edicts had been revoked, and that therefore from that time the restrictions were abrogated with respect to France. Mr. Gallatin, treasurer of the states, on the same day sent letters to the different collectors of the customs, announcing the abolition of the restrictions with respect to France, but declaring that they would be revived in full force with regard to Great Britain on the 2d of February next, should she not have in like manner revoked her hostile decrees. And by a second letter, he gave his opinion that in the case above-mentioned, all British goods arriving subsequently to

February 2d would be forfeited. In this unpromising state the contest between Great Britain and America was left at the close of the year.

A commencement was made in the present year of those civil dissensions in Spanish America which have ever since been productive of so much disorder and bloodshed. The manner in which these colonies were governed by the mother country had long been a subject of much discontent; but such was their attachment to the general cause of Spain, that the French usurpations excited an ardent zeal in its defence, and the colonists readily submitted to the provisional governments of Old Spain, and sent liberal contributions for their support. The bad success, however, of the measures adopted by the central junta and the regency, led them to consider of the means to be employed to secure themselves from the yoke of France; to which was added a purpose of taking the occasion for redressing by their own efforts the grievances under which they laboured. This spirit appears first to have manifested itself in Caraccas, the magistracy of which was deposed, and a provisional government was appointed, upon a principle of fraternization and unity with the mother country. Other provinces joined in the same revolutionary measures, and on April 19th Caraccas, Cumana, Barinas, Margarita, Barcelona, Merida, and Truxillo, formed an union under the name of the American Confederation of Venezuela. Although the principal leaders entertained the view of ultimate independence, yet they professed a warm attachment to Spain, and swore allegiance to Ferdinand VII.; they did not, however, recognize the authority of the regency at Cadiz, affirming that the central junta had no right to appoint it without assembling the Cortes. In fact, the interests of the colonists, of the merchants of Cadiz, were totally at variance; led by the influence of the latter, the revolutionists were declared traitors, and all their ports were placed under blockade, till they should acknowledge the rights of the regency. Two parties now began to divide Spanish America; that of the loyalists, who submitted to the

regency as the legal representatives of King Ferdinand; and of the Independents, who aimed to govern themselves. An attempt was made by King Joseph, by means of emissaries, to establish his authority in the provinces of Spanish North America, but with very indifferent success, an aversion to the French usurpation being general. It was a more important matter to discover what might be expected from the court of Great Britain; and the junta of Caraccas entered into a correspondence on the subject with the governor of Curaçao. In reply to his application to the ministry for instructions, Lord Liverpool, on June 29th, wrote a letter for the purpose of a public declaration of the system on which the British government meant to act with respect to the Spanish colonies. The substance of it was, that the obligations of justice and good faith must lead his Majesty to discourage every step tending to separate the Spanish provinces in America from the mother country; but that if Spain should be compelled to submit to the yoke of the common enemy, and lose its independence, his Majesty would think it his duty to afford every assistance to those provinces in rendering them independent of *French Spain*. A copy of this letter was communicated to the regency at Cadiz, and was published in all the Spanish newspapers.

The latter part of this year was marked by the recurrence of a domestic calamity, productive of a change in the government which forms an era in the annals of the present reign. His Majesty, in consequence, it was supposed, of deep affliction from the sufferings of his youngest daughter, the Princess Amelia, which terminated in her death on November 2d, was again attacked by the mental malady under which he had before laboured, so that when parliament re-assembled on the 1st of November, a proclamation was issued for its farther prorogation. After successive adjournments, supported by the favourable opinions of the physicians relative to his Majesty's progress towards recovery, it became necessary to supply the deficiency in the executive branch of government by a regency.

On December 20th, Mr. Perceval in the House of Commons moved three resolutions copied from those of Mr. Pitt on the like occurrence in 1788-9, of which the third only, that the proper mode of supplying the deficiency would be by a bill, produced a division; Mr. Ponsonby moving as an amendment, that an address should be presented to the Prince of Wales praying him to take upon himself the office of Regent. The amendment was rejected by 269 votes against 157. In the House of Lords the same resolutions, and a similar amendment, were moved, which last was rejected by 100 against 74. The arguments in the debates being of the same kind with those used on the former occasion, it is unnecessary to advert to them. The remaining proceedings relative to the regency belong to the parliamentary transactions of the following year.

The extraordinary rigour with which the French government in this year pursued the plan of excluding British commerce from all the parts of the continent subject to its influence, began to produce the effect of considerably reducing the demand for our manufactures, of which those of cotton were particularly affected; and numerous failures in that branch were the consequence. A great depreciation of the value of the last loan to government was one of the first symptoms of pecuniary difficulties and gloomy prospects, of which some tragical results made a strong impression on the public.

In Ireland, the spirit of discontent, never long dormant, took the turn of a violent antipathy to the union of the two kingdoms; and a numerous meeting held at Dublin, unanimously voted a strong petition for its repeal, though certainly with very little prospect of success.

A. D. 1811.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 51 & 52.
 ————— PARLIAMENT 4 & 5.

Regency Bill, and Debates. — Passed, and accepted by the Prince of Wales, who retains the subsisting Ministry. — *Speech by Commission.* — Mr. W. Pole's Letter enjoining magisterial Proceedings against the Electors of Delegates to the Catholic Committee in Dublin, and parliamentary Notice taken of the same. — *Catholic Petition to both Houses, rejected.* — Further Proceedings of the Irish Catholics, and of Government. — *Acquittal of Dr. Sheridan.* — Motion for Censure of the Lord Chancellor. — *Relief of Commercial Distresses.* — *Parliamentary Enquiry into the State of Bullion and Currency.* — *Consequent Resolutions.* — Lord Stanhope's Bill against the Sale of Gold Coin at advanced Prices, and the Depreciation of Bank Notes. — *Budget.* — Re-appointment of the Duke of York to the Office of Commander-in-Chief. — Clause in the Mutiny Bill allowing Commutation for Corporal Punishment. — Bill for the Interchange of British and Irish Militias. — Lord Sidmouth's proposed Bill for altering the Toleration Act. — *Portugal.* — Retreat of Massena, and Pursuit by Lord Wellington. — *Almeida taken.* — *Battle of Albuera.* — Failure at Badajos. — Campaign in Catalonia and Estremadura. — *French Capture of Badajos.* — *Battle of Barrosa.* — Capture of Tarragona by the French. — Their Successes in Valencia. — Other Actions in Spain. — Proceedings of the Cortes. — *Hamburg annexed to France.* — *Marine Conscription.* — Birth of a Son to Napoleon. — *Ecclesiastical Council.* — Napoleon's Visit to the Sea-coast, and Holland. — Campaign between the Russians and Turks. — Differences between Russia and France. — *Austrian Affairs.* — Prussia and Confederacy of the Rhine. — Sweden. — Repulse of the Danes at Anholt. — Suspension of Intercourse between Great Britain and America. — Action between the Little Belt and the President. — Fruitless Negotiations to terminate the Differences between the two Countries. — Occurrences in South America. — War between Buenos Ayres and Montevideo. — *West Indies,* — *Insurrection at Martinico.* — *East Indies.* — *Death of the Rajah of Travancore.* — Conquest of Java by the British. — Various Naval Actions. — Great Losses by Shipwreck. — Enumeration of the People of Great Britain. — Riots among the Hosiery Manufacturers.

THE close of the preceding year left the parliament fully occupied in the important business of settling the

regency. On December 31st, a conference was held between the two Houses, after which, the assent of the Lords to the resolutions already mentioned was announced. Mr. Perceval, then, at the close of a long speech, moved five propositions as the foundation of an intended bill for regulating the office of Regent. Of these, the first appointed the Prince of Wales Regent, under certain restrictions and limitations; by the second, he was restrained from conferring the rank of peerage for a time to be limited; by the third, from granting offices in reversion, or places and pensions, for a longer term than during the royal pleasure; the fourth formed regulations respecting the King's private property; and the fifth vested the management of his household in the Queen. The first stand made by the opposition was against the leading proposition, that the Regent should be laid under restrictions; and the Honourable Mr. Lamb moved as an amendment, "That the entire royal power should be conferred upon him without any restrictions." On a division, the amendment was negatived by 224 to 200; the smallness of which majority denoted a general opinion that the ministers held their places on a frail tenure. They were avowedly destitute of the Prince's confidence, and were therefore expected to be immediate sacrifices to the regency; but on the other hand, the expectation of the King's speedy recovery, regarded by his physicians as little less than certain, gave them a strong reversionary interest; and thus a kind of equilibrium of hopes and views was created, which will account for various fluctuations of party during the progress of this momentous transaction.

An unforeseen difficulty proceeding from the suspension of the royal authority, was the first thing which required parliamentary interference. On January 3d, the chancellor of the exchequer acquainted the House of Commons, that a difference of opinion had arisen between the treasury and the exchequer respecting the issue of certain sums which had been appropriated by parliament to the use of the army and navy, and he

moved for certain papers relative to the subject. After the House had resolved itself into a committee for their consideration, the chancellor of the exchequer moved, that until due provision be made for supplying the defect in the royal authority, the commissioners of the treasury should be required to issue their warrants to the auditor of the exchequer for the payment of such sums as the exigency may render necessary; and the officers of the exchequer be authorized to pay obedience to such warrants. After a long debate, the motion was carried without a division. The same being brought into the House of Lords, January 5th, the lord chancellor was asked why he had not made use of the great seal on this occasion, who replied, that it did not appear to him how he could have employed it to draw money from the exchequer for such services as these. Some observations being made relative to the application of the privy seal for the same purpose, the Earl of Westmorland declared that if the difficulty could have been averted by that means, he should have been willing to take upon himself the responsibility of affixing the seal. The motion at length passed, but a protest against it was entered by 21 lords, on the ground of the unconstitutional character of the proceeding, which might have been avoided by an address to the Prince of Wales to take upon himself the office of Regent.

The regency bill, after much discussion, finally passed into a law on February 5th. The powers granted and restrictions imposed were conformable to the propositions first moved by the minister, and the latter were to continue till after the 1st of February 1812. The restoration of the King to his authority, was provided for by means of a simple notification from the Queen and her council, to the privy council, of his recovery, after which his resumption of power would follow of course. The exercise of this great trust was confided to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Duke of Montrose, the Earls of Winchelsea and Aylesford, Lord Eldon, Lord Ellenborough, and Sir

William Grant. The Prince of Wales, on being waited on by a committee of parliament with the resolutions respecting the regency, in accepting the office, had expressed his regret that he should not have been allowed the opportunity of manifesting the conduct that duty and affection to his father and sovereign would have prompted; and he said that he still retained every opinion expressed by him on a former similar occasion. The nation, however, was not prepared to expect that one consequence of his feelings would be the continuance of the existing ministry. In a letter to Mr. Perceval, by which his Royal Highness declared his intention not to remove from their stations those whom he found in them as his Majesty's official servants, it was explicitly affirmed, that filial duty and affection led him to dread that any act of the Regent might, in the smallest degree, have the effect of interfering with the progress of his sovereign's recovery; and that this consideration *alone* dictated the resolution now communicated.

That the Regent regarded his situation as that of the ceremonial, rather than the efficient, head of the state, was apparently indicated by his declining to open the parliament in person, and his authorizing a speech in no respect differing (except as far as it touched on the circumstance of the regency) from that which the ministers would have composed, had the King still occupied the throne. Its topics were the successes of his Majesty's forces by sea and land in the last campaign; the disputes pending with America; and the commercial difficulties of the country, and deficiency of the revenue in Ireland; as a consolation for which, however, it was mentioned that the product of the revenue in Great Britain for the last year was greater than had ever before been known, without the aid of any new tax. It expressed the usual confidence in the zeal and liberality of the Commons "for the support of the great contest in which his Majesty is necessarily engaged;" and concluded with the Regent's anxious wish that he might be able to restore unimpaired into his Majesty's hands the government of his kingdom

Nothing memorable occurred in the discussion of the customary addresses, which were carried in both Houses without a division.

A further proof of the light in which the Regent viewed the authority with which he was invested, was given by a communication made to the House of Commons by the chancellor of the exchequer, that his Royal Highness, on being informed that a motion was intended to be made for some provision for the Regent's household, declared that he would not, for his own personal magnificence, add another burden to those already imposed on the nation. This fact was further explained by Mr. Adam, who said, from authority, that his Royal Highness declined any proposition for an establishment, or a grant from the privy purse; and that, during a temporary regency, he would not accept that which ought to belong to the crown.

The first subject of importance brought before the regency parliament related to a measure adopted by the government in Ireland respecting the catholics of that country. This numerous class of subjects had long been intent upon the means for obtaining that restitution to the full rights of citizens which they considered as their due; and a plan was adopted, at least by the major part of them, of forming in Dublin a standing delegation, consisting of ten persons elected from each county charged with the management of their affairs, not only for the purpose of petitioning, but for that of the redress of the general grievances under which they laboured. This kind of organization gave an alarm to government, and produced a circular letter by Mr. Wellesley Pole, secretary to the lord-lieutenant (the Duke of Richmond) addressed to the sheriffs and chief magistrates of all the counties in Ireland. After stating the report, that the catholics of the county in which the person resided to whom the letter was addressed were to be, or had been, called together to appoint delegates to an unlawful assembly in Dublin styling itself the catholic committee, the writer, in the name of the lord-lieutenant, required him, in pursuance of an act of the 33d of the King,

to cause to be arrested and committed to prison, unless bail should be given, all persons within his jurisdiction guilty of having been in any way concerned in issuing notices for such election or appointment, or of having attended meetings for such purpose. The intelligence of this proceeding excited much surprize and alarm in England, and on February 18th, the Earl of Moira brought the matter before the House of Lords. After some observations on the letter, his lordship put the question to the minsters, whether the measure had been settled by them before Mr. Pole's departure for Ireland? The Earl of Liverpool in reply asserted that they knew nothing of the matter till the news arrived, but that it was accompanied with reasons for the procedure which justified it; and Lord Moira having moved that the letter should be laid on the table, Lord Liverpool moved for a copy of the letter of the secretary of the catholic committee; both of which motions were agreed to. The subject was introduced in a similar manner into the House of Commons by Mr. Ponsonby, where Mr. Perceval made the same assertion of the previous ignorance of the ministers relative to the measure. In both Houses motions were made by the opposition for the production of copies of all the dispatches to and from the lord-lieutenant referring to this business, which were negatived. Mr. Pole having come over from Ireland during these discussions, and appearing in his place in the House of Commons on March 3d, Mr. Ponsonby made a motion for copies of various papers and documents, which drew from the secretary a particular explanation of the whole transaction. His principal object was to shew in what respect the proceedings of the catholic committee of 1809, which had not been interfered with, differed from those which had produced this act of government; and he stated, that in the former case they had confined their deliberations to petitioning, without attempting any thing like delegation; whereas in the latter, they had come to a resolution of appointing delegates to manage, not the petition, but the *catholic affairs*, and that a committee of grievances

sat weekly, and imitated all the forms of the House of Commons. In answer to a question from Mr. Ponsonby, whether the law officers had been consulted on the occasion, he affirmed that the lord-lieutenant had taken the opinions of the lord chancellor, the solicitor-general, and the attorney-general, and that the latter had drawn up the letter issued by himself. In conclusion, Mr. Ponsonby's motion was negatived by 133 against 48. The topic was again agitated in the House of Lords on a motion from Earl Stanhope, when the letter was attacked chiefly on the ground of its illegality, as being unauthorized either by the common law, or the act to which it referred. The lord chancellor, in defending the measure generally, confessed that its language did appear to him to be put together in a slovenly manner. The division, however, was in favour of the ministers by 21 against 6; and thus terminated the parliamentary proceedings respecting this remarkable letter.

It now remains, without breaking the continuity of subject, to relate the consequences of the resolution adopted by government with respect to the Roman catholics of Ireland. On February 23d, two magistrates of Dublin, by direction of the administration, repaired to a house at which the catholic committee was accustomed to assemble, and were shown to a room in which were a number of gentlemen, some of them in the act of signing the petition of the catholics to parliament. Lord Ffrench, who was called to the chair, demanded of the magistrates by what authority they came there; and was answered, that understanding it to be a meeting of the catholic committee, they came, by order of the government, to require it to disperse. A conversation followed, which terminated with the departure of one of the magistrates to consult Mr. Pole. On his return, he said, that as Lord Ffrench had assured them that the meeting was only of catholic gentlemen for the purpose of signing and forwarding a petition to parliament, and not of the catholic committee, it was not the order of government that they should be interrupted.

The petition was afterwards drawn up and presented, and its fate in parliament is now to be mentioned.

On May 20th, the catholic petition was presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Grattan; and on the 31st he moved that the same should be read, and also the votes of the House conveying thanks to the armies under Lord Wellington and General Graham, (in which were many Irish catholics.) From these documents he took his ground to shew that there was nothing in the Roman catholic religion itself which encouraged disaffection, but that the manner in which the catholics had been treated by government was the true cause of their discontents. After enlarging with great force on these heads, he concluded with moving that the petition be referred to a committee of the whole House. The motion was supported by other speakers; and on the other hand was opposed on the grounds of a supposed inherent principle of intolerance in the religion of Rome, of the apprehension that the catholics would still be rising in their demands, and of danger to the protestant establishment should their claims be allowed. On a division there appeared for the motion 83, against it 146.

The catholic petition was introduced to the House of Lords on June 18th, by Lord Donoughmore, who moved for referring it to a committee. In the debate which followed, the same arguments were urged on each side which had been produced in the other House. It was chiefly remarkable from a reference to the opinions of Mr. Pitt on the subject; Lord Redesdale and the lord chancellor affirming that in their conversations with him, it appeared that he had no safe-guards to propose for the effectual security of the protestant religion if the catholic claims were granted, whence an inference might be made, that he had other motives besides the refusal of them for quitting the ministry, whilst Earl Spencer and Lord Grenville rose to defend his memory from such an imputation of duplicity. The division on the motion gave contents 62, non-contents 121.

The Irish catholics were too zealous and confident in their cause to regard their parliamentary defeat as a reason for renouncing their plans; and the summer was actively employed in meetings for the nomination of delegates, several of which were attended by protestant gentlemen, who regarded catholic emancipation as a branch of the general liberty of Ireland. On the other hand, government resolved not to submit passively to the violation of its injunctions. An aggregate meeting being held at Dublin on July 9th, for the appointment of delegates to the general committee of catholics, five persons were apprehended by a warrant from the lord chief justice, for a breach of the convention act, one of whom, Dr. Sheridan, was put upon his trial before the court of King's Bench in Dublin. Either from some defect in the evidence, or from a different opinion concerning the nature of the imputed crime from that given by the judge in his charge, the jury brought in a verdict of *not guilty*, which was received with enthusiastic applause by the crowded audience; and the attorney-general declined proceeding to try the other persons implicated in the same offence. A new committee of delegates being at length completely formed, it assembled on October 19th, to the number of nearly 300, at the theatre in Fishamble-street, Lord Fingal in the chair. A petition to parliament was read and unanimously approved, and the whole business of the meeting was dispatched in so short a time, that the police magistrates came too late to disperse it as an unlawful assembly. The same committee met again on December 23d, when it was formally dispersed by a magistrate; and on the same day, a number of the members assembling at a tavern as private gentlemen, signed a requisition for an aggregate meeting of the catholics. On the 26th, the aggregate meeting was held, when a set of resolutions was passed, strongly censuring the proceedings of the Irish government, and expressing a determination not to submit in silence to the perversion of law and the abuse of power which was asserted to have been manifested. It was also resolved to present an humble address

to the Prince Regent as soon as the restrictions on his authority should cease. Another resolution passed for requesting a general committee of catholics, to be held at Dublin in the ensuing February.

Returning to parliamentary transactions, the next remarkable occurrence was an attack in the House of Commons upon the lord chancellor. In the debates upon the regency bill in the House of Lords, Lord Grey had taken notice of the circumstance of the King's having been suffered to perform some of the functions of royalty in 1804 at a time when his mental malady still rendered him an object of medical controul; and a censure of Lord Eldon had been incidentally moved on that account, but had been negatived. The subject was again brought forward by Mr. Whitbread on February 25th, who prefaced a motion in reference to it by a statement of the case. His Majesty's malady, he said, was announced to the public on February 15th, 1804, and bulletins continued to be issued till March 22d, but it was not till April 23d that his entire recovery was declared by a personal attendance at a council. Yet on March 6th Lord Eldon mentioned in the House of Lords that he had been with the King on the 4th and 5th of the month, and having explained to him the nature of a bill then pending for alienating certain crown lands in favour of the Duke of York, his Majesty had commanded him to signify his assent to that bill. On March 9th a commission signed by the King was issued; and Lord Eldon being asked whether he had personal knowledge of the state of the King's health, he declared he was aware of what he was doing, and would take upon himself all the responsibility. Lord Sidmouth also on March 26th brought down a message from the King. On these facts Mr. W. founded a motion for a committee to examine the Lords' journals for the evidence of the physicians respecting his Majesty's health in 1804, and to report the same to the House. Lord Castlereagh rose in defence of the chancellor, at the same time declaring his willingness to share the responsibility for the transactions

referred to. The defence turned upon the unanimous declaration of the physicians, of the King's competency to transact business on February 27th, though none was submitted to him till March 5th. On the 9th it was necessary to obtain his sign manual to the mutiny act, which could not be deferred without danger. In these and the other instances the physicians had sanctioned the application to him. Mr. Whitbread, in reply, pledged himself to make out the whole charge, if opportunity were given him of cross-examining the physicians; his motion, however, was negatived by 198 against 81. The public impression relative to this discussion was, that although there was no reason to suppose that the royal assent had been obtained to any measure not of itself proper, yet that the King had been induced to exercise his functions at a time when he was not possessed of a distinguishing judgment or free-agency, and that it would be highly expedient to prevent any future occurrence of the like kind.

The increasing commercial distresses of the nation having drawn the attention of government to them, the chancellor of the exchequer, on March 1st moved for the appointment of a committee to examine into the subject, and accordingly 21 members most distinguished for commercial knowledge were nominated for the purpose. Their first report was brought up on the 7th, in which they gave it as their opinion, that the principal part of the distress had arisen from the extensive speculations entered into on the opening of the South American markets for British manufactures, the returns for which being chiefly in West India commodities, there were no means in the present state of trade for realizing them. They conceived that parliamentary aid was at this time highly expedient, and that a sum in exchequer bills of not less than 6 millions should be issued, to be repaid by equal payments from three months to three months, the first commencing in the middle of January next. A bill for this purpose passed both Houses; its beneficial effects, however, were not equal to what had been expected, many of those in embar-

passed circumstances not being able to furnish the required security; whence the sums applied for were considerably less than the provision made.

The House of Commons was much occupied during this session with discussions respecting the state of the bullion and currency of the kingdom, an enquiry into which had been assigned to a committee appointed for the purpose in the preceding session. All that was said and written upon this subject would fill many volumes, and the contrariety of opinions maintained by men of ability and information served to prove that the theory of this part of political economy was yet crude and undetermined. Party, however, interfered in this, as in all other public topics, and the supporters and opposers of the ministry for the most part ranged on contrary sides in the questions moved on the occasion. When the report of the committee was brought in, Mr. Horner on May 6th introduced the subject in an elaborate speech, the general tenor of which went to shew that the paper currency of the country had undergone an actual depreciation, and that the only remedy was to provide for the resumption of payments in cash at the bank as speedily as possible. Mr. Rose in a reply, undertook to maintain three points; that bank paper was not depreciated—that it was not in the power of the bank materially to affect the circulation—and that not a guinea more would be seen were the restriction on cash payments to be taken off to-morrow. Mr. Horner having moved a set of resolutions founded on his ideas, they were all rejected. On May 13th a rival set of resolutions was proposed by Mr. Vansittart, all of which, after several adjourned debates, were passed. They contained a number of statements, relative to the price of bullion, the issue of bank notes, and the ratio of foreign exchanges at different periods, from which the following inferences were deduced. That the situation of this kingdom in respect of its political and commercial relations with foreign countries is sufficient, without any change in the internal value of its currency, to account for the unfavourable state of its

foreign exchanges, and for the high price of bullion : that it is highly important that the restriction on the cash payments of the bank of England should be removed when compatible with the public interest ; but that, under the circumstances affecting the political and commercial relations of the country, it would be highly inexpedient now to fix a definitive period for such removal prior to the conclusion of a definitive treaty of peace.

It was not possible, however, by parliamentary speeches, and resolutions, to prevent the fact of a real diminution of the value of bank notes in comparison with bullion, which at length became so notorious as to excite a general alarm. The trade of purchasing guineas for notes at a rate much beyond the nominal value of the latter was carried on to an extent which threatened the abstraction of all the gold in the kingdom. In some parts of Ireland gold had been demanded for rent instead of bank notes ; and a similar demand made by a nobleman in England was the subject of general conversation, and appeared likely to be imitated. In this emergency, Earl Stanhope, without any communication with ministers (with whom he was never in the habit of acting), on June 27th presented a bill to the House of Lords, the purpose of which was to make it illegal to give more money for gold coin than its lawful value, and also illegal to take bank of England notes at a value less than they nominally bore. His bill was not at first countenanced by the ministers ; but being sensible of the necessity of some preventive measure, and finding nothing better to suggest, they took it under their protection. It underwent a strong opposition in its passage through both Houses ; its opposers considering it as in effect rendering bank notes a legal tender, to which it doubtless was made to approximate by an added clause taking from landlords the summary process of distress if payment of rent was offered in bank notes. It however passed by large majorities, being generally regarded as a temporary expedient,

and its duration was limited to the 25th of March ensuing.

On May 20th Mr. Perceval produced his financial budget. The amount of supplies was stated at about 49 and a half millions for Great Britain, and six and a half for Ireland. Among the ways and means were reckoned the war taxes at 20 millions, and a loan of nearly 12 and a half millions. A proposed duty on cotton wool, not the product of British or Portuguese colonies, was given up on account of the opposition made to it by the manufacturers; and no other tax was proposed in its stead. A vote of credit of three millions was passed to meet particular exigencies. The minister represented the different branches of revenue as regularly increasing, whence he drew the most favourable conclusions of the progressive advance of the country in prosperity and affluence. This flourishing state of the finances of England encouraged a proposal for relieving the present embarrassment in the revenues of Ireland. In the budget for that kingdom, taxes were planned for the interest of two and a half millions borrowed in Ireland; but for that of four and a half millions borrowed for its service in this country, its minister of finance was not prepared to make a provision. Mr. Perceval, therefore, proposed that the interest for this loan should, in the first instance, be charged on the consolidated fund of Great Britain; and no opposition was made to the measure.

It has been mentioned that the Regent, regarding himself as the possessor of only a restricted and temporary authority, declined taking any leading part in public transactions, and suffered the ministers whom he found in office to pursue their own plans without interference. One act, however, which soon followed his accession to power, was doubtless a spontaneous exertion on his part: this was, the re-appointment of the Duke of York to the office of commander-in-chief of the army. As his resignation had appeared to give general satisfaction, this measure excited considerable surprize;

and some of the members of the House of Commons, who had stood forward in the charges which had been the cause of the Duke's resignation, could not but feel the act of his re-appointment as conveying an imputation on their conduct, as well as a stigma on the House itself. Under this impression, Lord Milton, on June 6th, after various observations relative to the past transaction, in which he attempted to show that if the Duke had not voluntarily resigned, the House was prepared to come to some resolution which would have rendered that event necessary, moved the following resolution: "That upon a deliberate consideration of the recent circumstances under which the Duke of York retired from the command of the army in March 1809, it appears to this House that it has been highly improper and indecorous in the advisers of the Prince Regent to have recommended to his Royal Highness the re-appointment of the Duke of York to the office of commander-in-chief." The chancellor of the exchequer, after fully acknowledging the responsibility of the ministers for the measure in question, affirmed that when the officer who lately filled the post of commander-in-chief had expressed a wish to retire on account of ill health, they had not the least doubt whom they should recommend to supply the vacancy; the Duke of York's eminent services to the army leaving them no choice. He then endeavoured to prove that the resolution of the House, stating that the Duke's resignation had rendered further proceedings unnecessary, implied no censure upon him, and did not pledge the House to any thing subsequent. Without pursuing the debate on the motion farther, it is sufficient to observe, that a great change had taken place in the sentiments of the majority of members relative to this matter, as the votes against it on a division were 296 to 47. The nation at large seemed to have undergone the same change of opinion, and the Duke of York resumed his situation with the general concurrence.

Two legislative measures in this session relative to the army appear worthy of commemoration.

The custom of flogging, as a military punishment, had been severely animadverted upon both in parliament and from the press ; and the impression these exposures of it had produced upon the public, and especially upon the soldiery, was so displeasing to the government, that prosecutions had been instituted against some writers who had expressed themselves with the greatest freedom on the subject. The facts and reasonings which had been produced, however, probably operated upon the minds of the ministers themselves ; for while the mutiny bill was passing the House of Commons, Mr. Manners Sutton moved the addition of a clause to give a power to courts-martial of inflicting the punishment of imprisonment in the place of corporal punishment, when they should judge proper ; which was adopted with universal consent.

The measure of an interchange of the militias of Great Britain and Ireland was introduced into the House of Commons on May 17th by Mr. Secretary Ryder, who moved for a bill to invest the crown with a power to that effect. This was opposed by some members as a breach of faith to the militia, and as likely to cause many gentlemen to resign their commissions ; it was however supported on the ground of its tending to complete the union between the two countries. In its progress, a clause was added to confer on the Irish catholics serving in England all the civil, military, and religious exemptions which they possessed in Ireland. The bill passed, and the interchange was soon extensively put in practice ; nor can it be doubted that the circumstance of having a considerable military force quartered in Ireland, composed of men not influenced by the civil and religious feelings and interests of the country, was the immediate object of the measure, though delicacy would not admit of the avowal of such a motive.

Among the other parliamentary occurrences in this session, the most remarkable was a proposed alteration in the act of toleration. Lord Sidmouth, on May 9th, moved in the House of Lords for leave to bring in a bill

for amending and explaining the acts of William and Mary, and of the 17th of George III. as far as they applied to protestant dissenting ministers. In opening his purpose, it appeared to be that of diminishing the number of licensed non-conforming preachers of the lower class, who, from their popularity, were the most formidable rivals to the clergy of the established church. The provisions of his proposed bill, therefore, went to render necessary such an apparatus of testimonials and recommendations for entitling an applicant to a license for preaching, as would obviously exclude many of the most illiterate and disqualified — an object apparently favourable to the respectability of sects, as well as salutary to the cause of public instruction; and in that view it was at first approved by some of the dissenters themselves. On a closer consideration, however, the controul and restriction authorized by it appeared so adverse to the principles of toleration, that an alarm was excited, which produced a more universal union among the separatists, in opposition to the measure, than was ever before known; and petitions against it poured in so numerous, that if it had any friends, they were deterred from appearing. The mover was left to contend with the storm alone, and a motion for deferring the second reading of the bill passed without a division.

Parliament was prorogued on July 24th with a speech in the Regent's name delivered by commission, in which great satisfaction was expressed with all the measures of the session, in particular with the wisdom and firmness manifested in enabling government to continue the exertions of the country in the cause of our allies, and to prosecute the war with increased activity and vigour.

At the beginning of this year the capital of Portugal was the point on which the interest of this nation in foreign affairs was concentrated. The question, whether that country should remain independent, or become a province of France, was to be decided by the success of the two great armies posted in the vicinity of Lisbon, one intent upon attack, the other upon defence. Military operations, however, were not confined to that nar-

row theatre in Portugal. The French General Clapartede twice in January attacked the Portuguese General Silveira in Upper Beira, and at length compelled him to evacuate Lamego, and retire across the Douro. The Portuguese ordenanzas, or irregulars, were active in the province of Beira; and a body of them, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Grant, on February 1st, attacked near Guarda a French detachment on its way from Ciudad Rodrigo, to join the main army, and occasioned to it a considerable loss in men and baggage.

The difficulties incurred by Marshal Massena of supplying his troops with necessaries in a devastated country, at a distance from all resources, at length compelled him to renounce his boasted purpose of planting his eagles on the walls of Lisbon — a purpose which the admirable position taken by his antagonist also rendered hopeless — and consult the safety of his army by a timely retreat. On the night of March 5th, he quitted his strong camp at Santarem, leaving behind and destroying some of his heavy artillery and ammunition. He proceeded for the Mondego, marching in one solid mass, with his rear covered by one or two divisions, which successively occupied the strong posts offered by the nature of the country. He thus preserved his army from any great disaster, though it was closely pressed by Lord Wellington, who brought the French to action whenever an opportunity offered, and occasionally killed and made prisoners of a considerable number. It was the object of the British commander's movements to save Coimbra and the Upper Beira from the enemy's ravages, and oblige them to take the nearest road to the Spanish frontier: the country, however, suffered severely from their retiring excesses, and they were accused by Lord Wellington of acts of cruelty and wanton mischief which would disgrace a horde of barbarians. In the haste of retreat they abandoned their wounded, and destroyed most of their baggage and other incumbrances. They retained till the close of March a strong post at Guarda, whence, on the approach of the allied army, they retired to Sabugal on the Coa. Their

position on that river was attacked on April 3d, by the allies in force, and carried after a sharp action. On the following day the French army entered Spain, and continued its retreat across the Agueda.

Lord Wellington now made arrangements for the blockade of Almeida, and employed the interval of active operations in a visit to the corps under the command of Marshal Beresford in Spanish Estremadura, consisting of an united force of British and Portuguese. After repulsing an attack from the French on April 7, near Olivença, he took a position whence he could invest that place and Badajos, which had fallen into the power of the French in a manner hereafter to be mentioned, and in both of which they had left small garrisons on their retreat from the province. Olivença surrendered to the marshal on the 15th; and Lord Wellington having had an interview with him, during which they established the blockade of Badajos, returned to his army.

Massena had now his head-quarters at Ciudad Rodrigo, where he had collected a large force. On May 2d, the French army, reinforced by all the troops in the adjoining provinces, crossed the Agueda, and advanced towards the allied army posted between that river and the Coa for the blockade of Almeida. On their approach, the British light division and cavalry fell back upon Fuentes d'Honor, where three other divisions were posted. There they were attacked on the 3d, by the French with a large force, which at length they succeeded in repulsing. On the 6th the attack was renewed by all the French corps, and a great variety of actions and evolutions were practised, which lasted till evening, with considerable loss on both sides. The skill of Lord Wellington, and the valour of his troops, finally prevailed, and the assailants were repulsed in every part. Their superiority in cavalry protected them from pursuit; but they gradually drew back, re-crossed the Agueda, and left Almeida to its fate. That place, on the night of the 10th, was evacuated by its garrison, who blew up part of the works, and silently wound their way through the blockading posts unper-

ceived ; but the alarm being given, they were pursued, and many were intercepted in the flight.

Marshal Beresford, in the meantime, was continuing the investment of Badajos, and two sorties made from the fort of St. Christoval by the garrison were beat back with considerable loss. On May 12th, the marshal being informed that Soult had quitted Seville, and joined by Latour Maubourg, was advancing to relieve the place, sent his heavy artillery and stores to Elvas, and concentrated his force. Marching forward to meet the enemy, he took a position near the village of Albuera ; and on the 16th, having been joined by a Spanish force under General Blake, he drew up his troops on a ridge of ground rising from the river of Albuera. The French immediately commenced an attack, in which they attempted the two objects of turning the right flank of the allies, and of carrying the bridge and village of Albuera. They succeeded in driving from their ground the Spanish troops posted on the right, and occupying their place. It now became necessary to recover this important position, for which purpose the most vigorous efforts were made at the point of the bayonet. A dreadful carnage ensued, principally occasioned by a body of Polish lancers, who broke in unperceived upon some British regiments, and almost entirely cut them off. At length, however, the attack was completely repulsed, and the enemy was driven back with great slaughter. The rest of the day was spent in skirmishing and cannonading ; and on the night of the 17th, Soult commenced his retreat towards Seville, and Badajos was left to its own defence. In the battle of Albuera the British sustained a greater loss than in any action hitherto fought in the peninsula. Their steadiness and gallantry obtained the highest commendations, but the generalship displayed was not equally applauded.

Lord Wellington, who had not been able to arrive in time for the engagement, ordered Badajos to be closely invested, and a breach having been effected in the fort of St. Christoval, two attempts to storm were

made on the nights of the 6th and 9th of June, both of which failed. An intercepted letter from Soult having conveyed intelligence of his intention to collect the whole force of Estremadura, and that Drouet was advancing from Toledo, Lord Wellington found it necessary to convert the siege of Badajos into a blockade; and the advance of the enemy determined him to relinquish the latter, and withdraw the allied army across the Guadiana. The French, now in full force, occupied both banks of the Guadiana, and made various movements towards the frontier of Portugal; and Lord Wellington, who had been strongly posted in Alentejo, moved his army to cantonments in Lower Beira.

In Spain, Catalonia was the theatre of the most active military operations at the close of the last, and the commencement of the present year. After the reduction of Tortosa, Marshal Suchet sent a division against Fort Balaguer at the mouth of the Ebro, on January 8th, which carried it by assault on the following morning. It was next determined to undertake the siege of Tarragona, and, as a preparatory action, the whole Italian division of the French army made an attack upon the Spanish General Sarsfield, January 15th, which terminated in the total defeat of the assailants with considerable loss. This check deferred for some months the siege of that city. During this interval, the fortress of Figueras was recovered by surprise in April by a body of Catalonians, who were admitted into the place through the contrivance of some of their countrymen whom the French had forced into their service. The whole French garrison were taken in their beds without a shot being fired.

It is now proper to revert to the successes of the French in Estremadura. In the beginning of the year, Marshal Soult assembling troops at Lerena, attacked the rear of the Spanish army at Usagre, and obliged it to make a hasty retreat. General Mendizabal retreated upon Merida, and on Soult's advance re-entered Badajos. Soult then invested Olivença; and on January 27th, soon after the breaching batteries began to

play, the governor proposed a capitulation. No other terms would be accepted than a surrender at discretion, with which he complied, and a garrison of 4500 men were yielded prisoners of war. The French army being reinforced by a division under General Lahoussay, the siege of Badajos was commenced. It was interrupted by the arrival, on February 5th, of two Spanish divisions detached from the army before Lisbon, on the heights of St. Christoval, whence they entered the town. These divisions, with the cavalry, afterwards established themselves on the same heights for the purpose of keeping up a communication with Elvas; but being attacked by the French on the 19th, they were almost all killed or taken prisoners. The siege of Badajos was then so closely pressed, that on March 10th, the governor capitulated, and the garrison of more than 7000, exclusive of the sick and wounded, were surrendered prisoners of war. This disaster was the cause of great chagrin to Lord Wellington, who had made arrangements for the relief of the place; and in communicating the event to the regency of Portugal, he stated the following facts: "The Spanish nation has lost in the course of two months, the fortresses of Tortora, Olivença, and Badajos, without any sufficient cause; at the same time, Marshal Soult, with a corps of troops which never was supposed to exceed 20,000 men, besides the capture of the two last places, has made prisoners and destroyed above 22,000 Spanish troops." The abortive attempts of the English general to recover that important fortress have already been mentioned.

The vicinity of Cadiz was in the spring the scene of an action which conferred honour on the British troops and their commander. An expedition having been resolved upon for the purpose of a combined attack on the French blockading Cadiz, a British force exceeding 3000 men under the orders of Lieutenant-General Graham, and a body of 7000 Spaniards commanded by General La Pena, embarked in Cadiz bay to form a junction with a Spanish force at St. Roche. Being

all united at Tariffa on February 28th, they proceeded towards the point of attack, and on March 5th, the allied troops arrived on the low ridge of Barrosa, four miles to the south of the river Santi Petri. General Graham receiving orders from the Spanish General to move to a position between Barrosa and the river, as he was on his march, was informed that the enemy was advancing in force towards the heights of Barrosa. Sensible of the importance of that position, he counter-marched in order to support the troops left for its defence, and arrived just as a French division had gained the ascent. A very severe action ensued, which ended in the enemy's retreat, leaving behind them an eagle, six pieces of cannon, two generals wounded, and the field covered with arms and dead bodies. Their whole loss was computed at 3000 in killed, wounded, and prisoners; that of the victors exceeded 1200. The ability and presence of mind displayed by the general, and the valour of the troops, were greatly applauded; but nothing besides glory was obtained by this success, and the expedition returned to Cadiz without having interrupted the blockade.

The principal event of the summer campaign in Spain was the siege and reduction of Tarragona. Suchet marched against this important sea-port of Catalonia about the end of April, and completed the investment of it as far as the sea, on May 5th. Its defence was aided by the succours it was able to receive from the British fleet; but on June 16th, the capture of an out-work gave the besiegers access to the interior of the lower town. A furious assault on the 21st, after much bloodshed on both sides, put this part of the town, with its dependencies, in the power of the French. The garrison still held out, till, on the 28th, a practicable breach being made, the assailants rushed in, and almost immediately carried the place. Their fury had been roused by the long and sanguinary resistance to such a pitch, that every outrage and cruelty suffered in a town taken by storm was undergone by the Tarragonians. Suchet, who appears not

to have been unwilling that a terrible example should be given by its fate for the purpose of intimidation, related in his account of the transaction, that 4000 were killed in the city, and of 10 or 12,000 who endeavoured to escape over the walls, 1000 were sabred or drowned, and 10,000 made prisoners. The particulars given in a letter from Captain Codrington of the *Blake*, are filled with still greater horrors. By this conquest the French became possessed of the whole coast of Catalonia; and Suchet marching into the interior of the province, dispersed the parties which the Marquis of Campoverde had attempted to assemble. Figueras, after a long blockade, was recovered by the French, and its garrison was compelled to surrender at discretion.

Suchet entered the province of Valentia in September, and on the 27th, took possession of Murviedro. He then opened trenches against its fortress, and made several attempts to carry it, which were repulsed with considerable loss. General Blake, in the meantime collected all the disposable force in that quarter for its relief. He occupied the heights above the besieging army, where, on October 25th, he was attacked, and after a well contested battle, was defeated with a loss, according to the French accounts, of 6500 in killed, wounded, and prisoners. On the following day the fortress of Murviedro capitulated, and its garrison remained prisoners of war. Suchet then advanced with part of his army to the suburbs of the city of Valencia, and made preparations for the siege of that capital. On November 26th, he attacked Blake's protecting army, the cavalry of which being routed, the infantry took shelter in their intrenched camp. This was afterwards forced, and the defenders, after losing their baggage and artillery, found no other retreat but into the city itself. On December 25th, Valencia was invested on every side. Its fall was protracted to the next year.

A variety of military events took place in other parts of Spain, but of no capital importance. The Guerillas were active under their principal leaders, Espoz de

Mina, Martin, named El Empecinado, and others, and caused considerable losses and embarrassments to the French armies. In October, the French army of Portugal, so called, being cantoned in the northern part of Estremadura, a division under General Girard, with a considerable body of cavalry, crossed the Guadiana and advanced upon Cáceres. Lord Wellington, who was now lying between the Coa and the Agueda, thereupon directed General Hill to move into that province, and in consequence, that officer marched from Portalegre to Malpartida. On his approach, Girard retreated; but General Hill, making a forced march, overtook and surprised him on October 28th, at Arroyo del Molino, and dispersed his force with a loss of about 2000 men, and all his artillery and baggage. Lord Wellington, after threatening Ciudad Rodrigo, withdrew in the latter part of the year across the Agueda, and cantoned his army, which was suffering from sickness, within the Portuguese frontier.

In the beginning of the year the Spanish Cortes issued a proclamation, declaring that they would not recognize any act of Ferdinand VII., while under the deprivation of his liberty. They passed a decree in April, abolishing the torture; and referred to a committee a motion for the abolition of the slave trade. Other proceedings of that assembly tending to the removal of old prejudices were, the admission of plebeians as well as nobles into the military colleges, the application to the use of the military hospitals of sums destined for religious fraternities, and the abolition of jurisdictional seigniories and vassalage. A principal object of their cares was the formation of a constitution, and a committee having been appointed for drawing up a plan for this purpose, two sections were read at a public sitting on August 19th, and were ordered to be printed. The preliminary article ran thus: "The sovereignty resides essentially in the nation; and therefore the right belongs to it exclusively, of establishing its fundamental laws, and of adopting the form of government which it judges most suitable." It produced a

long debate, the result of which was, that the first clause of the article was voted by a great majority, the second was rejected. The doctrine of the sovereignty of the nation, however, met with opposition from the royal council, which circulated a paper expressly denying it; in consequence of which, the Cortes ordered a criminal information against those who concurred in the measure, and in the meantime suspended them from their functions.

The ruler of France was in this year principally intent on his projects of entirely excluding the British commerce from the continent, and of raising a navy which in time might contend with that of England for the dominion of the sea. On the 1st of January, the annexation of the great commercial city of Hamburg to the French empire was announced by the display of the French flag and a public proclamation. The plan of a marine conscription was presented by Napoleon's order to the French senate, and of course received its ratification. It consisted in converting the military to a naval conscription, in the thirty maritime departments of the empire. For the purpose of recruiting the navy, youths from the age of 13 to 16 were to be selected and trained in the necessary manœuvres; and a decree was passed for placing 10,000 conscripts of each of the classes of 1813, 14, 15, and 16, at the disposal of the minister for the marine. At the same time, seamen were collected from all parts of the empire to be sent to man the fleet at Antwerp. In the spirit of forcing even nature to conform to his will, this extraordinary person issued a decree enjoining the culture of beet root and woad to a large extent, to supply the place of the sugar-cane and indigo plant, and render unnecessary all colonial importation.

An event of great apparent moment to the security of Napoleon's throne was the Empress's delivery of a son on April 20th. For the young prince was revived the title, so many ages dormant, of King of Rome; and he was welcomed with all the extravagant adulation usually bestowed on the heirs of absolute monarchy.

On June 17th a French national ecclesiastical council was opened at Paris in great ceremony. Its purpose was the supply of those numerous vacancies in the episcopal order, which the Pope's determined refusal to institute the bishops of the Emperor's nomination had occasioned. It was therefore declared in the exposé of the state of the empire, that the concordat between France and the see of Rome no longer existed; and that the fate of episcopacy would henceforth be attached to the deliberations of the council of Paris. But, uncontroled as Napoleon's will was in all other points, it appears that he found it necessary to exercise some management with respect to ecclesiastical affairs. With a view, probably, to conciliate the affections of his new subjects in Holland, and to accelerate his maritime preparations, he departed in September for a tour to the sea-coast. At Boulogne he ordered his flotilla to make an attack on the English frigate lying off that port, which terminated only in his mortification. He proceeded to view all the works and shipping at Ostend, Flushing, and Antwerp, in which visit he is said to have found much to flatter his pride and elevate his hopes. At Amsterdam, decorated with the title of the third city of the empire, he was received with all the demonstrations of joy and attachment which are so easily procured to gratify the feelings of a present master; and he issued from the imperial palace of that city, a series of decrees to regulate the internal government of Holland, the purpose of which was perfectly to assimilate its institutions with those of the *great nation* in which it was now merged. During this time, and after his return to Paris, Napoleon was actively engaged in negotiations with the northern powers, the effects of which were soon to be manifested. The year closed with an immediate call for 120,000 conscripts of 1812.

Russia continued to waste its population and revenues in its war with the Ottoman Porte, which was carried on during this year with the most vigorous efforts on both parts. The appointment of a new

Grand Vizier distinguished for military talents was the signal of awakened enterprize in the Turkish army, and an attack upon Rudshuck caused the Russian General Kutusoff to transport its inhabitants to the left bank of the Danube, and set fire to the town. The Grand Vizier then laid a plan of crossing that river in three places, and two of his attempts were successful. He established himself for a considerable time on the northern side, and various sanguinary actions took place between the advanced troops of each party. Kutusoff acted on the defensive till he had assembled all the force of the surrounding districts; he then became the assailant, and by masterly movements at length obliged the Turks to draw back on every part, and recross the Danube, which they were not able to effect without immense losses of every kind. The Grand Vizier now proposed the renewal of negotiations for peace, and a Russian and Turkish plenipotentiary meeting at Giurgewo began their conferences for that purpose. At the close of the year, the Russian arms had clearly obtained that superiority which skill and discipline must always finally possess over blind valour.

The Russian Emperor might at his pleasure disengage himself from the burden of a war of ambition; but difficulties were impending over him of a more serious kind. He was now the only continental potentate capable of asserting his independence against that power, which aimed at nothing less than rendering all Europe subservient to its views; and his resolution to maintain that honourable position was to be put to the proof. Napoleon's plan of ruining the finances of England by cutting off her commercial communication with the European continent, required an universal concurrence in the means proposed, and he had effected this purpose so far, that he could not brook any obstacle to its completion. But the English trade with Russia was too important to that empire to be readily renounced. Many of the nobility derived a great share of their revenues from the sale of products of which Great Britain was the principal market, and its connections

with the mercantile interest of Russia were extremely intimate. On this account English goods had never been committed to the flames in that country, and British colonial produce was admitted into the Russian ports in neutral bottoms. The presence of an English fleet in the Baltic during the summer could not fail of occasioning some relaxation of the system of commercial exclusion, which gave umbrage to the French ruler. Other occasions of difference subsisted between the Courts of Petersburg and Paris; and the whole year passed in discussions between them, some of which bore the aspect of immediate hostility. On the whole, it was unquestionable that the temper of Russia, at the close of the year, was more amicable towards England than towards France; and a cloud was gathering which threatened to involve the north in new troubles.

The humiliated court of Vienna was principally occupied with the restoration of its impaired finances, one of the measures for which was the sale of ecclesiastical estates to a considerable amount. The Diet of Hungary was opened in August, and the Emperor repaired thither in the beginning of September, and read a paper containing the proposals of government relative to matters of revenue. Some opposition appearing, a declaration was made on the part of the Emperor, that he would not suffer any resistance to his measures from the Hungarian states. His subserviency to the projects of his son-in-law was shewn by a note to the stadtholder of Austria, directing that free passage and all necessary supplies should be granted to the French troops on their march through his territories.

In the rest of Germany every thing was submissive to the will of Napoleon. The duchy of Oldenburg, on no other plea than that of convenience, was annexed without opposition to his northern empire. Prussia was rendered almost entirely dependent; and its unfortunate sovereign had been compelled to place a considerable body of troops under the orders of the French commander on the coast of the Baltic, and to join the confederacy of the Rhine. This league, the master-piece

of Napoleon's policy, was now become of great consequence from its extent of territory and population. Its contingent of troops was fixed at 118,682 men; and this body in the autumn was taken into the pay of France, and an army composed from it was assembling in the vicinity of Mentz.

The political state of Sweden in this year was dubious and disordered. The leading part in the administration taken by a Frenchman, as declared successor to the crown, naturally led to the expectation that the French interest would be predominant, and the declaration of war against England was an apparent result of this influence; but the measure was unpopular with the Swedish nation; and the Crown Prince himself began to display indications of being more swayed by the consideration of his future sovereignty, than by attachment to a former master. In March, the King issued a proclamation, signifying that on account of ill health he had found it necessary for the present to withdraw from public affairs, and had transferred the royal authority to the Crown Prince. A conscription of 20,000 men voted by the late diet was now put in execution, but it was attended with insurrections among the peasantry in various parts, which were not quelled without bloodshed. The commander of the English fleet in the Baltic during this summer, Sir J. Saumarez, entered into a negotiation with the Swedish government relative to some detained ships with colonial produce, from which a mutual desire of being upon amicable terms was apparent. The conduct of the British admiral in not only suffering coasting vessels to pass unmolested, but giving them protection, was highly satisfactory to the Swedish nation. Indeed, the war between the two countries was rather declared than subsisting.

The hostility of Denmark towards England continued without abatement; and the near approach of the French power, in consequence of the German annexations, necessarily rendered her subservient to its politics. A great proportion of the Danish seamen was suffered to enter the French navy, their chief employment at

home being in privateers and gun-boats against the British trade. The most considerable enterprize undertaken by the Danes in this year was an attempt to recover the isle of Anholt from the English. On March 27th a Danish flotilla with troops on board, constituting a force of nearly 4000 men, landed on the island, and made an attack upon the English fortifications garrisoned by no more than 350 men. Their operations, however, were so ill directed, that after repeated efforts, in which no want of courage appeared, they were repulsed with the loss of their commander, and many killed and wounded; and a body of 500, unable to get back to their boats, were obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of war.

It was mentioned in the narrative of the last year, that the government of the United States of America had passed an act by which all commerce and friendly intercourse with Great Britain was to be interdicted after the 2d of February ensuing, provided no repeal of its orders in council should previously have taken place. Such repeal not being made, Mr. Pinkney, the American resident, had his audience of leave of the Prince Regent on March 1st, and from that time, the Americans acted as if the French edicts against neutral commerce were revoked, and the English orders were still in force; whence their ports were open to the ships of the former power, and closed to those of the latter. In this state of suspended friendship rather than of enmity, an incident occurred which was likely to have brought on immediate hostilities. On May 16th about 15 leagues from the coast of America, the English sloop of war *Little Belt*, Captain Bingham, came in sight of the United States frigate, *President*, Commodore Rodgers, to which she gave chase. The other bore down, and the chase was reversed, and at length the two ships were brought within hail in the evening. What followed is differently stated by the two parties; but it appears that neither chose to make the first answer to the question of *What ship?* and that during the demur, a firing commenced (from which first, is disputed) ter-

minating in a close engagement. It had continued about three quarters of an hour, when a suspension occurred, and the hailing being repeated, the ships recognized each other. They parted for the night, and in the morning Commodore Rodgers sent a boat on board the *Little Belt* with offers of assistance, which were declined. The result was a loss of 32 killed and wounded in the English ship; that of the American was inconsiderable. If this unfortunate encounter had any other cause than a naval point of honour, the vast superiority of force on the side of the American justifies a presumption against its commander as having intentionally brought it on; especially as he may also be supposed to have entertained the design of avenging his country's flag of the affront sustained in the case of the *Chesapeake*. The governments of the two countries, however, disavowing any hostile orders given to their respective commanders, no other consequence followed than a temporary exasperation.

The British ministry manifested a desire of terminating the differences subsisting with the United States, by sending out in the spring Mr. Foster as envoy-extraordinary and plenipotentiary. On his arrival he entered into a correspondence with Mr. Monroe on the several subjects in dispute, of which the most important, and which alone appears to have been attended with insuperable difficulties, related to the orders in council. A long train of argument was carried on by each party, and the conclusion of the whole was, that nothing but their repeal would satisfy the American government, of which Mr. Foster was not authorized to give any expectation; as, indeed, their justice and policy were strenuously maintained by the English ministers. On the meeting of congress, November 14th, the president, in his address, made this refusal on the part of Great Britain his leading topic, and represented it as directly tending to a rupture. He also expressed much dissatisfaction with the court of France, for its delay in restoring the great amount of American seizures, and for the restrictions imposed on their trade in the French dominions.

The committee of congress, in their report on the president's speech, expressed themselves in still stronger terms respecting their wrongs, and recommended vigorous measures of preparation by land and sea. Such was the menacing aspect of affairs in that quarter with which the year closed.

South America was now involved in the miseries of civil war. The events which occurred there were so differently represented by the different parties, that a slight notice of the principal ascertained facts is all that will be here attempted. In Mexico, various sanguinary actions during the last and the present year terminated in a decided superiority of the royalists. The confederacy of Venezuela placed General Miranda at the head of their forces, and felt themselves strong enough to meet in congress, and issue a declaration of independence, conceived in language not less forcible than that of the North Americans on their separation from Great Britain. In the viceroyalty of Buenos Ayres, the capital, with the greater part of the province, had adopted the cause of independence, while Montevideo, through its connections with Cadiz, was held firm to the interest of the mother country. Elio, the new viceroy, a man of a vigorous character, on his arrival at that town, issued a proclamation for the capture and confiscation of all the vessels which should attempt to enter or quit Buenos Ayres subsequently to April 15th; and with his squadron of armed ships, he blockaded that harbour. The irksome situation in which the capital was thus placed caused an army to be sent to lay siege to Montevideo, and Elio, who attempted to protect it, was defeated, and forced to take shelter in its walls. The Montevidean squadron then bombarded Buenos Ayres, but occasioned more alarm than mischief; and the junta of the capital took possession of some English merchant-men for their defence, the crews of which were ready to lend their services. A negotiation was now commenced for a cessation of hostilities, during which the English Admiral de Courcy arrived in La Plata, and insisting on the free entrance of British ships into the river, ob-

tained the removal of the blockade with respect to them. The Portuguese government of Brazil now determined to take the part of Old Spain, and sent a body of 8000 men to the assistance of Elio, which arrived near Montevideo on September 10th, and this circumstance broke off the negotiation.

The West-India islands, being now entirely in the possession of Great Britain and Spain, with the exception of the Negro government of Hayti, offered little matter for narration in this year. In Martinique a plot was discovered in September for an insurrection of the free people of colour and the negroes, during which the town of St. Pierre was to be set on fire, and all the white men massacred. On its timely disclosure, the military and militia were placed in a proper state to resist the attempt; and a party of 4 or 500 slaves, headed by five leaders, approaching to enter the town, was attacked and dispersed, and a number of the insurgents were made prisoners. Fifteen of the most active were condemned and executed, and tranquillity was restored. No other cause is assigned for this insurrection than the propagation of the principles of equal rights, and the example of St. Domingo. In this latter island, although a civil war was still subsisting, the black chief, Christophe, caused himself and his wife to be crowned king and queen of Hayti with all the usual ceremonies, and instituted ranks of nobility, an order of knighthood, a hierarchy, and the other appendages of a monarchy.

In the East Indies a revolution was effected in which the British power interfered, from the motive of "certain political considerations." The ill treatment by the new rajah of Travancore of some branches of the late rajah's family, having attracted the notice of Colonel Monro, the English resident at that court, and an investigation of his right to the throne being set on foot, it was discovered that a prior right resided in the Ranah (or princess) Letchma Amah, then in her 18th year. Measures were then taken for the dethronement of the rajah, which was effected without bloodshed, and on March 17th, the Ranah was solemnly crowned, in the presence

of the British troops, to whom she made donations. The revolution appears to have been entirely favourable to the English interests.

A splendid acquisition was made to the British dominion in that part of the world, by the conquest of the capital of the Dutch East-India settlements, Batavia, with the island of Java in which it is situated. Lord Minto, who planned this expedition, had collected a body of troops for the purpose at Madras, in the month of March, of which the chief command was vested in Sir Sam. Auchmuty; and Lord Minto himself resolved to accompany the armament. On August 5th a landing was effected without opposition twelve miles from Batavia. The chief force of the Dutch, under the command of General Janssens, was posted at Cornelis, some distance up the country; on which account it was resolved first to explore the road to Batavia. A fire being perceived in the city, a detachment was sent to take possession of the suburbs, to which the burghers surrendered the city, after the conflagration had destroyed many public storehouses. The army then proceeding against the enemy, Colonel Gillespie, on the 10th, carried with the bayonet a strong position in advance of the works at Cornelis. The main body of the enemy occupied these works, in which they were entrenched, and defended by redoubts, and a numerous artillery. For some days a cannonade was directed against the works, by which several batteries were silenced; and on the 26th a general assault was ordered. The gallantry with which it was conducted was irresistible; the lines were forced, the fort taken, and the whole defending army of 10,000 men was killed, taken, or dispersed. General Janssens fled with a few cavalry to the distance of thirty miles, where he employed himself in collecting all the remaining force for the defence of the rest of the island. Sir S. Auchmuty, however, pushed his success with vigour, and marching to Samarang, whither General Janssens had retired, he took possession of it without opposition. After another attempt at resistance had

been defeated, an armistice took place, which concluded with the surrender of the European troops, and the delivery of the whole island of Java to the British arms. The small island of Madura also submitted, and thus not a vestige was left of the eastern dominion of the Gallo-Batavian empire.

Although the British navy could no longer meet with an adequate antagonist on the ocean, various occasions were found of signalizing its characteristic spirit of enterprise.

An English squadron of four frigates, of which Captain Hoste was the commodore, descried on March 13th a French force of five frigates and six smaller vessels, with 500 troops on board, off the north point of the island of Lissa on the coast of Dalmatia, which they had been sent to fortify and garrison. The French commodore, confiding in his superiority, bore down in two divisions to attack the English, who formed in a close line to receive him. The action commenced by an attempt of the French commander to practise the manœuvre of breaking the line ; but in this he failed, and endeavouring afterwards to round the English van, he was so roughly treated, that his ship became unmanageable, and ran on the rocks. The action was still maintained with great fury, till two of the French frigates struck. Two more crowded sail for the port of Lessina, and the small vessels dispersed in all directions. The result of this action, which ranks among the most brilliant achievements of the British navy, was the burning of the ship of the brave French commodore, who was killed in the engagement, and the capture of two others. A fourth, which had struck her colours, took an opportunity of stealing away, and was in vain reclaimed as lawful prize by Captain Hoste. The loss of the English amounted to 200 in killed and wounded.

The Indian sea off Madagascar was the scene of a severe conflict in the month of May, between an English and a French squadron. Three French frigates with troops on board having appeared off Mauritius, and borne away on discovering that the island had been

captured, Captain Schomberg of the *Astræa* frigate, conjecturing that they would make for Tamatava, followed them thither, accompanied by two other frigates and a sloop. On the 20th of May the enemy was discovered near Foul Point, Madagascar, when a partial engagement ensued, in which the English ship *Galatea* suffered so much in her masts, that she could not be brought again into action. On the next day the engagement was renewed; and the French commodore's ship of 44 guns and 470 men, of whom 200 were picked troops, struck after being reduced to a wreck. Another frigate struck, but, according to the French custom, made its escape. The English squadron then proceeded to Tamatava which had been repossessed by the French, and obliged the fort and the vessels in the harbour to surrender. Among these was a frigate of 44 guns which had been in the late action.

The other successful actions were chiefly the capture or destruction of flotillas, convoys, and small armed vessels, which answered the purpose of keeping the enemy in alarm in various quarters, and disconcerting his operations.

The close of the year was remarkable for violent storms, occasioning great losses at sea, of which the British navy partook in full proportion. On December 4th, the *Saldanha* frigate, the Honourable Captain Pakenham, was lost off Lough Swilley on the northern coast of Ireland, and every soul perished. A dreadful gale in the German Ocean on December 21th, was much more extensively fatal. The *Hero* of 74 guns, Captain Newman, coming with a convoy from Wingo sound, ran on the Haak sand off the Texel, and every attempt to save the crew being ineffectual, they were all lost when the ship went to pieces. Several vessels of the convoy shared her fate. On the same disastrous day, the *St. George* of 98 guns, Admiral Reynolds, and the *Defence* of 74 guns, Captain Atkins, sailing homeward from the Baltic, where the *St. George* had already lost all her masts, were stranded on the western coast of North Jutland. The consequence was, that both

were entirely lost, and only six men were saved from one ship, and eleven from the other.

Among the domestic circumstances of the year, it may be interesting to take notice of the second enumeration of the people in Great Britain, and its general result. The total of the population returned in 1801, was 10,942,646; that of 1811, was 12,552,144: exhibiting an increase of 1,611,882, of which almost every town and district numbered had a share. If such an increase appears scarcely credible during ten years chiefly spent in war, the excess may partly be attributed to greater attention in making the returns, which probably was the real case; yet various circumstances lead to the opinion, that the country had actually received a considerable addition of people during that period.

The interior tranquillity of England was little disturbed during the greatest part of this year, but towards the close of it, serious tumults broke out in the district of the hosiery manufactory, particularly in Nottinghamshire. They were occasioned by the discharge of many workmen, partly owing to decrease of demand for the articles manufactured, and partly to the invention of a wide frame for weaving stockings, by which a considerable saving of labour was effected. Against these frames the first attacks of the rioters was directed, which commenced on November 10th, near Nottingham, and were continued with augmented daring, attended with outrages of other kinds. The riotous spirit extended to the manufacturing districts of Derbyshire and Leicestershire, though the county of Nottingham was still the centre of the mischief. Numbers of frames were destroyed during the month of December; but it was not till the next year that the evil spread so far as to become an object of serious attention to the government.

A. D. 1812.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 52 & 53.

———— PARLIAMENT 5, 6, & 1.

Royal Speech. — Bills relative to the King's Household, and the Prince Regent's Establishment. — Provision for the Princesses. — Motions respecting Irish Catholics. — Bill for prohibiting the granting of Offices in Reversion, renewed. — Bills to render Frame-breaking capital, and to quell Disturbances. — Gold-coin Bill amended. — Discussions respecting Colonel M'Mahon. — Debates on the Barrack Estimates. — Ministerial Negotiations, and their Results. — Assassination of Mr. Perceval — Motion of Mr. Wortley for an efficient Administration. — Consequent Negotiations. — Their Failure and Confirmation of the former Ministry. — Debate on, and Revocation of, the Orders in Council. — Budget. — Alarming Riots among the Manufacturers, and Bill for their Suppression. — Motions for Relief of the Roman Catholics — Bill in favour of Dissenting Worship. — Spanish Campaign — French repulsed at Tariffa. — Valencia taken by them. — Lord Wellington reduces Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajos, and advances against Marshal Marmont. — Battle of Salamanca. — Its results: Madrid evacuated, and the Blockade of Cadiz raised. — Failure of Lord Wellington at Burgos, and his Retreat to the Frontiers of Portugal. — Spanish Cortes — Ballasteros. — Overture for Peace by Napoleon. — Naval Transactions — Napoleon's grand Design against Russia. — French occupy Swedish Pomerania. — Advance of the French Armies — Ineffectual Negotiations. — Russians retire. — Battles of Smolensko and Moskwa — Napoleon enters Moscow. — Its Conflagration. — Disastrous Retreat of the French. — Conspiracy at Paris. — Napoleon's Return. — Peace between Russia and the Porte, and Sweden. — Sicilian Constitution. — Affairs of the United States of America — Declaration of War against Great Britain. — Attempts upon Canada foiled. — Their Naval Successes. — Events in South America. — East Indies and Persia. — Domestic Occurrences — Suppression of Riots. — Parliament dissolved and a new one assembled. — Prince Regent's Speech, and Debates.

THE parliamentary session was opened on January 7th, with the speech of the Prince Regent delivered

by commission. Its topics were, as usual, all the favourable military events of the past year, and the circumstances encouraging a perseverance in the system of continental politics which had been so long pursued, and was now become habitual to the nation. The subsisting differences with America were touched upon, with an assurance that all means of conciliation would be adopted consistent with the honour of the crown, and the commercial and maritime interests of the country. It was recommended to parliament to take into its consideration the proper measures for the future government of the British possessions in India, and to resume that of the Irish finances. The speech was chiefly distinguished by its caution in avoiding matter of debate; and in consequence, the discussions in both houses to which it gave rise were not sufficiently interesting to require particular notice.

The House of Commons having, on January 16th, resolved itself into a committee to consider of a part of the speech relative to the King's household, the chancellor of the exchequer rose to lay before it the measures proposed to be adopted on the occasion. He began with stating the diminished expectation of his Majesty's recovery according to the opinions of his physicians; and as the entire sovereign authority was soon to devolve on the Regent, and with it the civil list, he proceeded to consider the arrangements which it might be proper to make for the royal household. Two questions presented themselves relative to this topic—from what sources were the provision and attendants to be drawn, and what were the nature and extent of the provision to be made. With respect to the first, he did not hesitate to say, that the King's present civil list, and his present officers and servants, were the sources to be looked to. As to the second, he thought it to be the duty of the committee to contemplate not only the probability or improbability of his Majesty's recovery, but a kind of middle state in which, though incapable of resuming the reins of government, he might be susceptible of more comfort

and enjoyment than at present. In this supposed middle state, it was to be conceived that his feelings would be less hurt at finding not only the same individuals, but the same officers, about his person to which he had been formerly accustomed; and as this would require the double establishment for a Regent and a King, an additional expence must be incurred, which it was proposed to meet by an addition of 10,000*l.* a year to the civil list. The minister then proceeded to state all the particulars relative to the plan of a double household, and the provision to be made for its expences; and among them he mentioned an addition of 10,000*l.* a year to the Queen's income, on the plea of supposed expences likely to be incurred by her removals for health or amusement. In fine, he adverted to the expences incurred by the Prince Regent on assuming the reins of government, and said, that when it was hoped that his exercise of the royal authority would continue but for a short period, he had declined receiving any assistance whatever; but that it would now be reasonable to make provision for these expences, for which purpose he proposed a grant of 100,000*l.* for one year only. He concluded with moving, 1. That for making provision for the due arrangement of his Majesty's household, and for the exercise of the royal authority during the continuance of his Majesty's indisposition, and for the purpose of enabling the Queen to meet the increased expences to which, in consequence of such indisposition, her Majesty may be exposed, there be granted out of the consolidated fund of Great Britain for that period, the additional yearly sum of 70,000*l.* 2. That it is expedient that provision be made for defraying the expences incident to the assumption of the personal exercise of the royal authority by his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty.

These resolutions being agreed to after some observations, bills were framed upon them, which underwent considerable discussion in their passage through the

House. It was objected that the state between sanity and insanity to which it was supposed the King might arrive, was unfounded upon any thing that had appeared on the examination of the physicians; that nothing could be more frivolous than the reason assigned for an addition to the Queen's income; and that the grant for covering the expence of the Regent's assumption of his authority, being meant to apply both retrospectively and prospectively, entirely abrogated the merit of his having declined burthening the country with any additional charge when the event first took place. On this subject, however, the party regarded as particularly the friends of the Regent were silent; and the bills passed with less opposition than might have been expected. A clause proposed by Mr. Bennet, for incapacitating such officers as held places in the household from sitting in parliament, was negatived.

In continuation of the subject as relating to the royal family, it is to be mentioned that a message from the Prince Regent being brought to both Houses of parliament on March 20th, recommending a provision for the Princesses, the chancellor of the exchequer on the 23d brought in a proposal on the subject. This was, that to each of the four Princesses should be granted 9000*l.* a year, exclusive of 1000*l.* from the civil list; that at the death of one of them, the survivors were to have 10,000*l.* each, the same to continue when there should be two survivors only; that the sole survivor of the whole should receive 12,000*l.* He concluded with moving that an annuity be granted to the King of 36,000*l.* for the purpose above-mentioned. A bill to this effect was passed, after the rejection of an amendment proposed by Mr. Tierney, for changing the date of its beginning to operate, from February last, to the King's demise.

The state of Ireland, particularly with reference to the Roman catholics, was brought early in the session under the discussion of both Houses by motions for appointing committees to take them into consideration; that in the House of Lords being introduced by Earl

Fitzwilliam, in the House of Commons by Lord Morpeth. On this occasion the whole force of argument on each side was brought into the debate; and while concession to the catholic claims was strongly urged by one party, and as strongly deprecated by the other, a middle course was taken in the speeches of Marquis Wellesley and Mr. Canning, who decidedly supported the general justice and policy of annulling the restrictions under which the catholics laboured, but contended against the propriety of concession whilst that body remained in the menacing attitude they had assumed. The motions were negatived in the House of Lords by 162 to 79; in that of Commons by 229 to 135.

The bill for prohibiting the grant of offices in reversion being about to expire, Mr. Banks moved for leave to bring in a new one in order to render the measure permanent. The bill was introduced, and a division taking place on the motion for its second reading, it was negatived by 56 against 54. A motion by the chancellor of the exchequer for its being deferred to that day six months was carried by 55 votes to 52. Mr. Banks then moved for a bill for the same purpose limited to two years, which was not opposed. When brought into the House of Lords, a motion was made by Earl Grosvenor for extending its operation to the year 1840, which was negatived, and the bill passed in its first form.

The continued disturbances in the town and county of Nottingham, in which frame-breaking was organized into a regular system, which the exertions of the magistrates, with the aid of a military force, were unable to controul, occasioned Secretary Ryder, on February 14th, to introduce two bills to the House of Commons, the object of which was to add new powers to those already conferred by the laws, for suppressing these tumultuous proceedings. The first of these was to render the crime of frame-breaking, now punished by transportation, a capital offence. The second was to enable the lord-lieutenant of the county, the sheriff, or five justices, when disturbances existed, to call a

special meeting for the appointment of a necessary number of constables, and establishing watch and ward. He then made a motion for the first bill. During its passage through the House it met with considerable opposition, as being an extension of capital punishment which ought not to be admitted without more accurate enquiry; and the appointment of committees for the latter purpose was proposed, but negatived. The bill being speedily carried through that House, was sent to the Lords, where it was commented on with still greater severity; it however passed into a law. When the fellow-bill was introduced into the House of Commons, a suggestion was made for extending its provisions to the neighbouring counties; and during its progress, Mr. Ryder stated that he had received communications from various parts which had rendered it advisable to give it an extension to the whole kingdom, and that it had therefore been new-modelled by the addition of several clauses. This bill likewise passed into a law: the operation of both was limited to March 1st, 1814.

A bill for the continuation and amendment of that of the last session respecting gold-coin and bank-notes was moved by the chancellor of the exchequer on March 17th. The first amendment proposed was that of its extension to Ireland; to which was afterwards added that of taking away from the landlord the right of ejection after a tender of bank-notes in payment of rent. The discussion of this bill was attended in both Houses by a repetition of the former arguments respecting the identifying bank paper with coin, with the addition of others which referred particularly to the case of Ireland. It occasioned several divisions in the House of Commons, which were determined in favour of the minister by decisive majorities; and it passed into a law.

Although the compass taken by these annals will not permit entering farther into parliamentary history in general, than to record the most important of those measures which were actually carried into execution,

yet it may be useful and interesting to notice others of a different class, when they particularly elucidate either the system of policy pursued by ministers, or the prevalent strain of public sentiment. Of this nature may justly be reckoned such occurrences as served for a test of the character of the regency, and of the conduct of the ministers under the delicate situation in which they stood with respect to it.

Early in the session notice had been taken in parliament of an appointment conferred upon the Regent's confidential servant, Colonel M'Mahon, which was that of paymaster of widows pensions; a place mentioned in the report of the commissioners for public accounts as one of those sinecures which ought to be abolished, which opinion was confirmed by the commissioners of military enquiry. The ministers defended, as well as they were able, this appointment, and defeated by majorities the first motions censuring it; but the national feeling was so decidedly on the other side, that a resolution for the abolition of the place at length passed by 115 votes against 112. Colonel M'Mahon was remunerated for his loss by the post of keeper of the privy purse and private secretary to the Prince Regent. This circumstance was brought before parliament on March 23d by the honourable Mr. Ward, who questioned the chancellor of the exchequer respecting the salary and duties of a place with the existence of which he was unacquainted; when he was informed that the same offices had been held under the King by Colonel Taylor, admitting, however, that this was not till after his Majesty's deprivation of sight. A motion for the production of the appointment being afterwards made, a debate ensued, in which its propriety was warmly discussed. On a division, however, the efforts of the ministry caused the motion to be quashed by a majority of 176 to 100. Here, too, the voice of the public was not in unison with that of the House; and it was found expedient to adopt the suggestion of Mr. Wiberforce, that the salary should be paid out of the Regent's privy purse.

In a committee of supply, April 13th, the sum of 554,411*l.* was moved for as the expence of the barrack department for the current year. Among other items in the estimate which were thought extravagant, particular exception was taken to the charge of 138,000*l.* for a barrack to be built for the second regiment of life-guards in a piece of ground newly taken in under the name of the Regent's Park, and which was generally understood to be designed for an ornament to the park. In repeated debates on the subject of the barrack estimates, objections were made to this and some other articles, and an amendment proposed for a reduction of the sum was rejected by no greater majority than 134 to 112. This public discussion was not without its effect; for when the budget was brought forward by the new chancellor of the exchequer, it was announced that the treasury had struck off an additional vote of 90,000*l.* for the barrack department, as it had been resolved to *postpone* the execution of the projected barracks at Marylebone park, Bristol, and Liverpool.

From the incidents above-mentioned it will appear, that the ministers had not been neglectful of those means of securing the favour of the Regent which, when he came to the unrestricted exercise of his power, might render their continuance in office a more probable event than it was generally regarded to have been at the commencement of the regency. As from this time the meditated or expected changes in the administration occupied the greatest share of the public attention, it will now be proper to take up the subject from the beginning, and pursue it in an uninterrupted narration.

Early in the year, the cabinet sustained a considerable loss by the resignation of the Marquis Wellesley. The motives for this step were stated to have been a difference with his colleagues as to the scale on which war was carried on in the peninsula, which he regarded as narrow and inefficient, and a general opinion that the ministers were deficient in knowledge and ability. He notified his intention of withdrawing on January 16th, but was induced, at the Regent's desire,

to remain in his post till the expiration of the restrictions. Finding then that it was the Regent's purpose to continue Mr. Perceval at the head of the ministry, and being consulted on the formation of a cabinet, he declared that on certain principles he would be ready to serve *with* Mr. Perceval, but that he would never serve *under* him; and his resignation was accepted on February 19th, Lord Castlereagh succeeding him in the post of secretary for foreign affairs.

A letter from the Prince Regent to the Duke of York dated February 13th was made public, in which, after referring to the motives of duty which had induced him hitherto to wave his privilege of making a change in the executive government, and taking notice of the present important crisis of affairs, his Royal Highness said, "I cannot conclude without expressing the gratification I should feel, if some of those persons with whom the early habits of my public life were formed, would strengthen my hands and constitute a part of my government. You are authorized to communicate these sentiments to Lord Grey, who, I have no doubt, will make them known to Lord Grenville." The failure of the negotiation which was the result of this letter was made known, when, on March 19th, Lord Boringdon moved in the House of Lords for an address to the Prince Regent, beseeching him to form an administration, so composed as to unite the confidence and goodwill of all classes of his Majesty's subjects. In the ensuing debate Lord Grey stated the points on which Lord Grenville and himself had declined an union with the present ministers. The existing administration, he said, was formed on the express principle of resistance to the catholic claims; a principle loudly proclaimed by the person at the head of it, from the moment he quitted the bar to take a share in political life, up to the present instant; and where he led, the rest were obliged to follow. He then adverted to other points of difference. With respect to the disputes with America, though he would go as far as any man in support of our essential maritime interest, yet he should think it necessary to weigh the

true value of those interests in dispute, bearing in mind the principle so well expressed by Mr. Burke, "as we ought never to go to war for a profitable wrong, so we ought never to go to war for an unprofitable right." On the subject of the circulating medium of the country, he avowed that an impassable line of separation existed between him and the present ministry with respect to making bank-notes a legal tender. With regard to the war in the peninsula, it was his wish that we should not proceed on the present expensive scale without having some military authority as to the probable result. In fine, he said, the most momentous of all his objections against the present system of government was the existence of an unseen and separate influence behind the throne. The debate on Lord Boringdon's motion terminated in a division upon an amendment proposed by Viscount Grimstone, which in effect counteracted the whole of it, and was carried by 165 against 72.

The administration now proceeded unchanged, and without any symptom of want of stability, till it was deprived of its leader by a most tragical and extraordinary incident. As Mr. Perceval, on May 11th, was entering the lobby of the House of Commons about five in the evening, a person of the name of Bellingham fired a pistol at him, the ball of which entered his left breast, and pierced his heart. He staggered, fell, and in a short time expired. Nothing could surpass the consternation in both Houses at this catastrophe, the first idea apparently being that of a conspiracy against the members of administration to an unknown extent. It was, however, soon discovered that the act was merely in revenge of a supposed private injury. Bellingham having, in a commercial visit to Russia, undergone losses for which he fancied the English government was bound to procure him redress, their refusal to take any cognizance of his case made such an impression on his mind, constitutionally disposed to dark melancholy, that he resolved to make a sacrifice of some conspicuous member of the government which had neglected him. The

general regard entertained for Mr. Perceval's character as a man, even by those who widely disagreed with him in political opinions, was testified by an ample provision unanimously voted for his widow and family. His particular friends broke through this unanimity by the proposal of further honours to his memory and donations to his family, which were opposed, but carried. The assassin paid with his life a deed of atrocity which would have been a national stain, had it not evidently resulted from a degree of mental distemperature.

This event was regarded as inflicting such a wound on the ministry as would render absolutely necessary, if not a radical change, at least a very considerable alteration in its system and composition; and the Earl of Liverpool, on whom the post of leader now devolved, was directed by the Prince Regent to endeavour to acquire an accession of strength by the association of the Marquis of Wellesley and Mr. Canning. His negotiation for this purpose failed, the cause of which, as appears from the letters made public on the occasion, was a continued difference of opinion between the subsisting members of administration, and the persons applied to, respecting the measures to be pursued with regard to the catholics, and the scale on which the war was to be carried on in the peninsula.

While affairs were in this fluctuating state, and it was supposed that efforts were making to patch up a new ministry by additions to the old, Mr. Stuart Wortley, on May 21st, brought a motion before the House of Commons for an address to the Prince Regent, praying him to take such measures as might be best calculated to form an efficient administration; implying, as he allowed, that the persons now about to be called into, and to be continued in, the management of public affairs, did not possess the confidence of the country. The motion being warmly debated as a trial of strength between the different parties, an attempt to set it aside by the orders of the day was defeated by 174 to 170, when it passed without a division. Mr. Wortley having

next moved that the address should be presented by such members as were of the privy-council, to his great surprise it was rejected by a majority of two. At length it was agreed upon that it should be presented by himself and Lord Milton. The Prince's answer was that he would take the address into his serious and immediate consideration.

It being now apparent that the ministers were no longer supported by a majority in the House of Commons, the Prince Regent directed negotiations to be opened for effecting the object of the address. The first person to whom this delicate commission was entrusted was the Marquis Wellesley, who, after a short time, tendered to his Royal Highness his resignation of the office. In the House of Lords on June 3d, his lordship gave information of this circumstance, at the same time lamenting that "the most dreadful personal animosities, and the most terrible difficulties arising out of questions the most complicated and important, should have interposed obstacles to an arrangement so essential to the public welfare." These strong expressions he afterwards explained as not referring to the Prince Regent, but to the Earl of Liverpool and his colleagues, who, however, disavowed the personal animosity imputed to them.

The same powers for negotiating were next transferred to Lord Moira, who treated with Lords Grey and Grenville upon a basis which seemed to promise a removal of all obstacles to a final adjustment; since the Prince Regent had authorized his lordship to say, that all the leading questions of policy should be left to their entire management. This also failed, and the cause of difference was made known to be the regulation of the household. On this subject the following remarkable circumstances came to light. Lord Yarmouth, the principal person in the Regent's household, and he whose private influence was probably most dreaded, affirmed that it was the intention of himself and his friends to resign their situations previously to the entrance of the new administration upon their offices, and

that they had taken means to make their intention known in those quarters whence it was the most likely to reach the ears of the persons most interested. Mr. Ponsonby, on the other hand, asserted for himself and the two lords, that they had never heard one word of such intention, and had not the remotest idea that it existed. The other fact was still more extraordinary. Mr. Canning, in giving an account of these negotiations to the House of Commons, said that he was authorized to give a statement of Lord Moira's conduct on the subject. Having put directly to the Prince Regent the question, "Is your Royal Highness prepared, if I should so advise it, to part with all the officers of your household?" the answer was, "I am." "Then (said his lordship) your Royal Highness shall not part with one of them." If this sally of sentiment was the real means of preventing a total change of men and measures from that time to this, it may add a striking example of *great events from little causes*.

On June 7th Mr. Stuart Wortley brought forward a motion respecting the failure in the negotiations for a new administration, which he prefaced with some severe strictures on the conduct of the two lords, in putting an end to the treaty with them on account of a difference concerning the household. He then moved for an address to the Prince Regent, expressing regret that their expectations had not been realized, and entreating that his Royal Highness would without delay form such an administration as might be entitled to the support of parliament, and the confidence of the nation. It was in the debate on this motion that the circumstances above-mentioned were made public. The motion was negatived without a division; and thus the old ministry remained in possession of the support of the House of Commons. On June 8th the Earl of Liverpool acquainted the House of Lords that the Prince Regent had appointed him first commissioner of the treasury, and authorized him to complete the arrangements for the ministry. The principal accessions to that body were Lord Sidmouth, secretary of state

for the home department; Earl of Harrowby, lord president of the council; Mr. Vansittart, chancellor of the exchequer.

During this political agitation, the examinations respecting the effects of the orders in council on the commercial interests of the nation were carried on with little interruption in both Houses of parliament; and a vast mass of evidence having been collected, Mr. Brougham, on June 16th, after a minute statement of the most important facts brought out in this enquiry, concluded with a motion for an address to the Prince Regent, beseeching him to recall or suspend those orders, and to adopt such measures as might tend to conciliate neutral powers, without sacrificing the rights and dignity of his Majesty's crown. In the debate which followed, Lord Castlereagh deprecated the attempt of bringing a question so important to a hasty decision, and intimated an intention in government of making a conciliatory proposition to America. The motion was at length withdrawn, on the understanding that an official instrument on the subject should appear in the next gazette. This was, a declaration from the Prince Regent absolutely revoking the orders in council as far as they regarded American vessels, upon the proviso, that if, after the notification of this revocation by the British minister in America, the American government did not revoke their interdictory acts against English commerce, the same should be null and of no effect. Mr. Brougham, on its publication, declared the entire satisfaction of himself and his friends with the frank and manly conduct of government in the mode it had adopted; and it was generally hoped that by this proceeding an amicable intercourse between the two countries would be restored; but before the intelligence reached the United States, they were actually at war with Great Britain.

The chancellor of the exchequer, Mr. Vansittart, in bringing before the House of Commons the annual budget on June 17th, announced it as the plan of his lamented predecessor. The joint charge upon Eng-

land and Ireland was stated at upwards of 58 millions, with a separate additional charge upon England of more than four millions, making its share to amount to 55,350,648*l*. Of the ways and means were war taxes taken at 20,400,000*l*.; a loan by subscribers of exchequer bills funded 6,789,625*l*., another loan of 15,650,000*l*., and a vote of credit of three millions. A number of new taxes were then proposed to the amount of 1,903,000*l*., and the resolutions of the chancellor of the exchequer were passed. One of the taxes, which was an additional duty upon leather, was afterwards opposed, as bearing hard upon the labouring classes, and was carried by only a small majority.

The disturbances among the manufacturing workmen, which in the last year commenced in the hosiery districts, began early in this year to extend to the neighbouring counties. Their seat was that large and very populous tract comprising the cotton manufactory of Lancashire and part of Cheshire, and the clothing manufactory of the West Riding of Yorkshire. The disposition to riot in this quarter prevailed from February till the middle of summer, during which period a great number of lawless outrages were perpetrated in the destruction of property, particularly of the machinery used in the manufactures, and in attempts against the lives of persons active in suppressing the tumults. In their progress, the rioters adopted a system of organization highly dangerous to the public peace, and manifesting itself by a kind of military training, accompanied by the seizure and concealment of arms, and the administering of an oath of secrecy and mutual fidelity.

On June 27th, the Prince Regent sent a message to each House of parliament, acquainting them that he had ordered copies of the information received relative to the abovementioned riots to be laid before them, confiding in their wisdom to adopt the proper measures for restoring tranquillity. In consequence, the papers communicated were referred to a committee of secrecy in each House, the result of which was the introduction by Lord Castlereagh, into the House of Commons, on

July 10th, of a bill for the preservation of the public peace in the disturbed counties. He stated its objects to be these three; — To make a more effectual provision to prevent the rioters from possessing themselves of arms — to guard against the effect of tumultuary meetings — to give more effectual power, and more extensive jurisdiction, to the magistrates of the disturbed districts. In the discussions respecting this bill various objections were made, particularly with regard to the power conferred on single magistrates to search for arms on suspicion, which, it was apprehended, might lead to the horrors occasioned by similar measures in Ireland. A great majority in both Houses, however, supported the bill, as being rendered absolutely necessary from the circumstances still existing; and it passed into a law. Its duration was limited to March 25th, 1813.

The friends to concession in favour of the Roman catholics were not deterred by the repeated failures in parliament to obtain their object, from a renewed attempt; and on June 22d Mr. Canning, in a forcible and eloquent speech, introduced a motion in the House of Commons for a resolution, that the House early in the ensuing session would take into consideration the laws affecting his Majesty's Roman catholic subjects in Great Britain and Ireland, with a view to a final and conciliatory adjustment. In the succeeding debate, Lord Castlereagh made a liberal declaration in favour of the subject of the motion; and the general sense of the House was proved by a division in which the motion was carried by the decisive majority of 225 to 106. In the House of Lords the same motion was introduced on July 1st by Marquis Wellesley, when the previous question was moved upon it by the lord chancellor. The result exhibited a remarkable balance of opinion in that House. The previous question was carried by a majority of one only, the numbers being 126 to 125; and on each side were ranged ministers and their habitual supporters, royal dukes, and bishops; the latter, indeed, in very unequal proportion.

Lord Castlereagh, on July 10th, brought in a bill to the House of Commons for the purpose of repealing

certain acts, and amending others, relating to religious worship and assemblies, and to persons preaching or teaching therein; the object of which was to remove doubts which had occurred in consequence of certain decisions at the quarter sessions, and to place the dissenters in the situation in which they practically stood before such decisions. The bill passed both Houses without opposition, and was regarded as a valuable security to the principle of toleration. The session of parliament was closed on July 30th.

Of the highly momentous transactions on the European continent in this year, those in the Spanish peninsula claim the first notice, as well in chronological order, as in point of importance to this country.

Near the close of the last year, the town of Tariffa in Andalusia, garrisoned by a thousand British infantry, with a detachment of artillery, under the command of Colonel Skerret, and a body of Spaniards, was invested by the French with an army of 10,000 men commanded by Marshal Victor. A breach being made in the wall, the enemy advanced to the assault on December 31st, when they were received with so much intrepidity that, after a considerable loss, they were obliged to retreat. They continued to fire against the breach, and another attack was expected, when on January 5th, their columns were seen retiring, having left behind them their artillery, ammunition, and stores. This defence conferred great honour on the garrison and its commander, who held out with only 1800 men behind a poor wall, against a marshal of France.

The complete investment of Valencia by Marshal Suchet was mentioned among the concluding events of the last year. The city was surrounded by fortified lines of a great extent, forming an entrenched camp for an army of regular troops and militia. The French opened trenches against these works on the night of January 1st, and within four days the Spaniards were compelled to abandon their lines and take post in the suburbs. After a bombardment of three days, General Blake, who commanded in the city, agreed to a capi-

tulation, by which Valencia was surrendered to the French, with about 18,000 troops of the line, a great number of officers of rank, and artillery and military stores in great abundance. Suchet then pursued his success, and became master of Alzira, St. Felipe, Gandia, and Denia. Peniscola near the frontier of Catalonia soon after surrendered. Soult at this time occupied the frontiers of Mercia, and pushed an advanced party as far as Lorca. Such were the successes of the French arms in this quarter.

Lord Wellington was in motion as soon as his troops had recovered from their sickness and fatigue. On January 8th he invested Ciudad Rodrigo; and in the evening of the 19th, its defences being much injured by the fire of the batteries, a storm was directed in five separate columns, all of which entered and formed on the ramparts. The garrison, which had sustained severe loss in the conflict, submitted, to the number of 1700 men, besides officers. The heavy train of the French army, with great quantities of ammunition and stores, were taken in the place. The loss of the besiegers was considerable, especially in officers, among whom, Major-General M^c Kinnon was killed by an explosion close to the breach. The importance of the conquest was shewn by a vote of the Cortes, conferring on Lord Wellington the rank of a grandee of Spain of the first class, with the title of Duke of Ciudad Rodrigo.

The next object of the British general was Badajos. After repairing the fortifications of Ciudad Rodrigo, and placing in it a Spanish governor, he went to Elvas on March 6th, and moving his army from their cantonments, he invested Badajos on both sides the Guadiana on the 16th. At this time there was but a small force of the French in the province of Estremadura. Generals Sir Thomas Graham and Sir Rowland Hill were posted in advance to cover the siege, the operations of which proceeded without intermission, notwithstanding the unfavourable weather. Breaches having been made in the bastions, an assault was resolved upon on the night of April 6th. Simultaneous attacks were

planned on different parts of the works, of which that of the castle by General Picton was the first which succeeded. Although some others were repulsed, yet the possession of the castle, which commanded all the works, decided the fate of the town; and at day-light, General Philippon, the commandant, surrendered with his garrison. This had consisted of 5000 men at the commencement of the siege, but about 1200 had been killed or wounded during its progress, besides those who perished in the assault. The total loss in killed, wounded, and missing, of the British and Portuguese, exceeded 4850. Marshal Soult, who had drawn all the French force from Cadiz except 4000, and had advanced to Seville, and thence as far as Villa-franca, on the intelligence of the loss of Badajos, retreated towards the borders of Andalusia. The British cavalry with General Graham was dispatched in pursuit, which coming up with the French cavalry, routed them with considerable loss. Soult afterwards entirely quitted Estremadura.

On April 24th, Lord Wellington, being then at Al-fayates on the Portuguese border, dispatched Sir R. Hill to make an attack upon the enemy's posts and establishments at Almaraz on the Tagus in Estremadura, near the border of New Castile, which afforded the only good communication below Toledo across the Tagus, and thence to the Guadiana. The general was not able to bring this to effect till May 19th, when the ardour of his troops carried a strong fortress on the left bank of the river; which success struck such a panic into the garrison of another fortress on the right, that they abandoned their works and fled with great precipitation. The victors then destroyed the works for the defence of the bridge, and made prize of the cannon and magazines, with a number of prisoners.

Lord Wellington was now advancing upon the French army under Marshal Marmont, and on June 16th, he came in front of Salamanca. Marmont had left garrisons in some forts constructed upon the ruins of buildings in Salamanca, against which it was necessary to make regular approaches. Marmont endea-

voured to keep up a communication with them, but was compelled to retire, and the forts were at length taken. Lord Wellington then marched after the retreating enemy, who being reinforced, became an assailant in his turn. A variety of movements and counter-movements took place between the two armies in a small compass of ground, which could not fail to bring on an engagement. This was accelerated by the information which the English commander received, of farther reinforcements being on their way to join Marmont. He was, therefore, watchful for a favourable opportunity to attack the French, which at length he found on the afternoon of July 22d. The battle of Salamanca, one of the conspicuous victories of that general, was the consequence, which, after a vigorous resistance, terminated at the close of day in a complete discomfiture of the French, who, besides the numerous killed and wounded on the field, lost in prisoners a number of officers of all ranks, and between 6 and 7000 privates. Two eagles and 11 pieces of cannon were further trophies. Marshal Marmont was wounded, and four French general officers were killed. The loss on the side of the English and Portuguese was also considerable, amounting to about 5200, and one general officer was killed, and three wounded.

The rear of the defeated army made a stand for some time on the Douro, but on the approach of the victors crossed that river, abandoned Valladolid, and continued its retreat upon Burgos. King Joseph in the meantime, with the central French army, had left Madrid and taken post at Segovia with a view of joining Marmont; but a movement of Lord Wellington induced him to quit that city, carrying with him the church-plate and other valuable property, and retire through the pass of Guadarama. The English general, determining either to bring him to an action, or oblige him to relinquish the capital, entered Segovia on August 7th, and on the 12th, two divisions of the army entered Madrid, where Joseph had left a garrison in Fort la China, in the palace of la Retiro. The fort was invested on the

13th, and on the next day the commandant capitulated, surrendering his garrison with a great quantity of ordnance, ammunition, and stores.

The effects of the battle of Salamanca were felt in different parts of Spain, and one of its most important consequences was the desertion by the French of the long continued blockade of Cadiz. This city had suffered much from scarcity and sickness in its close investment on the land side, and its bombardment had lately, by means of some new contrivance, become more serious. It was, therefore, a high gratification to the inhabitants, when on the night of August 24th, they discerned vast fires and explosions in the works of the besiegers, by which they effected the destruction of their forts and batteries previously to their final retreat; leaving behind them a numerous artillery, mostly rendered unserviceable, and a large quantity of powder and stores unconsumed. Soon after, Seville was also freed from the invaders, being entered on the 27th, by a combined force under General La Cruz and Colonel Skerret, which, in a tumultuary fight, expelled a considerable body of French troops, who left behind them, baggage, horses, and several prisoners.

It now became necessary for Lord Wellington to attend to the motions of the French army, and on September 1st, he quitted Madrid, and advanced to Valladolid, the enemy retiring before him across the Pisuerga. Following them in their retreat upon Burgos, he was joined on the 16th, by three divisions of infantry and some cavalry of the Gallician army under Castanos. On the 17th, the French were driven to the heights adjoining Burgos, through which city they retired in the night, leaving a considerable garrison in the castle, which was defended by an exterior line of works. As it was important to become master of these fortifications as soon as possible, Lord Wellington, whose artillery was not equal to regular approaches, endeavoured, after some breaches were made, to carry them by storm, but these attempts were defeated with much loss. The French army now largely reinforced

by all the disposable troops in the north of Spain, began to make demonstrations of a design to raise the siege of the castle, and having made an attack on the out-posts of the allies at Monasterio, gained possession of the heights above that town. Intelligence was also received from Sir R. Hill of the intention of the enemy on his side to move toward the Tagus. Lord Wellington, therefore, on the night of the 20th, broke up the siege, and began a retrograde march to the Douro. He was followed on the 22d by the enemy, who pressed close on his rear, making attacks with their cavalry and light troops whenever they had an opportunity, and occasioning considerable losses. Indeed, his lordship was so dissatisfied with the conduct of his troops, that in an address, published in the face of Europe, he reproached them with a want of discipline "greater than that of any army with which he had ever served, or of which he had ever read." The troops were recalled from Madrid, which capital was re-entered by the French on November 1st. General Hill was also directed to quit the position to which he retired from the Tagus, and proceed northwards. Without entering into the particulars which belong to military history, it suffices to say, that after a display of great generalship in the retreat before an enemy whose force was at last estimated at 80 or 90,000 men with 200 pieces of cannon, Lord Wellington on November 24th, again established his head-quarters at Freynada on the Portuguese frontier. A variety of minuter actions took place in different provinces of Spain during this year, in which the Guerillas bore a distinguished part. The leading events of the campaign, however, were the French successes in Valencia, and the advance of Lord Wellington to the centre of the peninsula, which had the effect of obliging the invaders to break up the lines of Cadiz, and relinquish the southern provinces. The reduction of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajos was also highly important by the security in which it placed the kingdom of Portugal.

The Spanish Cortes, on March 18th, presented the august spectacle of a public signature of the articles of that constitution which so long had been the great object of their labours. Deputies from all parts of the monarchy were present in this solemnity, and 184 persons signed two copies of the instrument. A commission was then appointed to carry the constitution to the Regency, which received it with profound respect. On the 20th all the deputies assembled in the hall of congress to swear to the constitution, after which, the Regency entered the hall and took the oath of office. The day closed with a solemn proclamation of the constitution; and thus all the validity was given to this national act of which it was capable. A decree was published in May, by which the convocation of the ordinary Cortes was declared for the year 1813, its opening to take place on October 1st. It was also determined, that no member of the present extraordinary, could be elected for the ensuing ordinary Cortes. Jealousies had prevailed, from the first co-operation of the English with the Spaniards, of any attempt to place the Spanish armies under British commanders; but the distinguished merits of Lord Wellington in this year so far overcame this feeling, that the Cortes added to the rank of a grandee of Spain which they had conferred on him, that of commander-in-chief of the Spanish armies. When his lordship in this capacity sent an order to General Ballasteros, captain-general of Andalusia, for moving his army, the latter felt his honour so much piqued, that he declined obedience. He also addressed a letter to the war minister, in which he expressed in strong terms his sense of what he regarded as a national affront, and made a kind of appeal to the Spanish armies and citizens. The Regency, however, determining to enforce due subordination, discharged Ballasteros from his command, and put him under arrest in the midst of his army, which made no opposition. This incident was particularly regretted, as the general was one of the most zealous and active of the Spanish commanders.

It may here be proper to mention, as connected with the affairs of the peninsula, that Napoleon, previously to entering upon his great northern expedition, caused an overture to be made to the Court of London for a negotiation for peace, and proposed as a basis, that the integrity of Spain should be guaranteed, France should renounce every idea of extending her dominions beyond the Pyrenees, the *present dynasty* should be declared independent, and Spain should be governed by a national constitution of her Cortes. Lord Castlereagh, in reply, observed, in the name of the Prince Regent, that if by the *present dynasty* was meant the sovereignty as residing in the brother of the ruler of France, and by the Cortes, an assembly formed under his authority, such a proposition was totally inadmissible. This declaration rendered the overture ineffectual; as, indeed, it was obviously made by Napoleon only to hold out an appearance of pacific policy, when he was about to extend his sphere of warfare beyond all former bounds.

The opportunities offered to the British navy during this year of signalizing itself were not numerous, but its established character was maintained by some successful actions.

In February, the Victorious man of war, Captain Talbot, in company with the Weazle sloop, fell in with the French ship Rivoli of 74 guns, with three brigs and two gun-boats, proceeding from Venice to Pola in Istria. A very close action ensued between the two line of battle ships, during which one of the brigs engaged with the Weazle blew up, and the others took flight. The Weazle then placed herself on the bow of the Rivoli, which had already been rendered perfectly unmanageable by her antagonist, and she at length struck, having lost nearly half her crew in killed and wounded.

Two French frigates and a brig endeavouring, on May 2d, to get into the harbour of L'Orient, were intercepted by the Northumberland man of war, Captain Hotham, who, with great nautical skill, succeeded in driving them ashore, and destroying them, though lying under cover of numerous batteries on the land. The fri-

gates were of 44 guns and 450 men each, and the brig of 18 guns.

On July 7th Captain Stewart of the Dictator, with three armed brigs, being off Mardoe, on the coast of Norway, observed the mast heads of a Danish squadron over the rocks. The ship with one of the brigs making their way through a narrow passage, came upon the squadron consisting of a frigate of 38 guns, three stout brigs, and 25 gun-boats, and commenced a hot fire, by which the frigate was battered to pieces, the brigs made to strike, and most of the gun-boats dispersed or sunk. On returning, the prize brigs ran aground and were abandoned. This bold enterprize was effected with a loss of 50 killed and wounded. That of the Danes was at least 300 men besides the vessels.

A severe action was fought off Lissa on November 28th between three English and three French frigates, in which much courage and conduct were displayed on both sides. The result was the capture of a French ship of 44 guns, and another of 26 guns fitted as a store ship.

Other successful actions on a smaller scale were reported, which were equally creditable to the British navy. Its reverses unfortunately furnish an article in the narrative of the American war.

The refusal of Russia to concur in the French Emperor's favourite scheme of excluding the British commerce from the whole European continent, was regarded by him as a sufficient cause for marching against that country with all the force of the territories actually under his dominion, and with that of every state which he had reduced to a subserviency to his views. The mass of military power thus congregated, surpassed, probably in numerical amount, certainly in arms and discipline, that with which any European conqueror had taken the field from the times of barbarism; and it cannot be doubted that it was designed to effect greater changes than mere commercial regulation. Every other purpose had been made to give way to this vast project, and veteran troops had been recalled from their suc-

cesses in Spain to add to the strength and vigour of the French armies.

The first operation connected with Napoleon's plans was the occupation of Swedish Pomerania in January by 20,000 French troops, the purpose of which arbitrary seizure was, doubtless, that of obtaining a pledge for the conduct of Sweden in the approaching contest. The island of Rugen was afterwards taken possession of by the French, who seized for their service all the vessels on its coast.

Early in the spring, the French army, joined to that of the Rhenish confederacy, was in march for the frontiers of Poland. At the end of March, Marshal Ney had his head-quarters at Weimar. A body of Prussians had been placed at his disposal; the King of Prussia having in this month ratified a treaty of alliance with the French Emperor, which was declared to be defensive against all the powers in Europe with which either of the contracting parties was or might be at war, and guaranteeing to each other their present territories. It was not doubted that his Prussian Majesty felt hesitation to which of the great powers at variance he should ally himself; but the rapid measures of the French soon put an end to his indecision. In April, troops of all nations under French command were incessantly marching towards the Russian frontiers. They crossed the Vistula on the 20th to the number of 80,000, and took possession of Elbing and Königsberg. The Emperor Alexander prepared to meet the coming storm by quitting his capital, and advancing to Wilna, where he joined General Barclay de Tolly, commander-in-chief of the first army of the West.

Napoleon left Paris on May 9th accompanied by his Empress, and on the 16th they reached Dresden, where they were to hold an interview with the Emperor and Empress of Germany. A treaty had been signed in March between the two potentates, including the reciprocal guaranty of each other's territories, with a stipulation that if either of them should be attacked or menaced by another power, the other contracting party

should at the first requisition send a succour of 24,000 infantry and 6000 cavalry, with 60 pieces of cannon. The treaty also guaranteed the integrity of the dominions of the Ottoman Porte in Europe, and recognized the right of neutral navigation. In the beginning of May the French army and its allies, commanded by the Duke of Abrantes (Junot), were cantoned on both sides the Oder. A large force of Prussians under Field-Marshal Kalkreuth was assembling at Breslau.

Napoleon quitted Dresden, and on June 7th suddenly appeared at Dantzic, where he took a view of different points of the coast. At this time negotiations seem to have been carrying on between the two Emperors; and before the commencement of actual hostilities, the French court published certain papers relative to the causes of difference. The first of these was a note addressed on April 25th by the Duke of Bassano (Maret) to Count Romanzof, in which, after a statement of the stipulations of the treaty of Tilsit, the writer complained of the abandonment by Russia of the principles of that treaty, and of her engagement to make common cause with France against the wrongs of England. Of the particulars mentioned, were the ukase which opened the ports of Russia to English colonial produce, being English property, imported under a foreign flag; and the opposition made by Russia to the annexation of the duchy of Oldenburg to France, rendered *necessary* by the French possession of the Hanse towns. A note followed, from Prince Kurakin, the Russian ambassador at Paris, to the Duke of Bassano, in which the preservation of Prussia, and its independence on any political engagement directed against Russia, were declared to be indispensable to the interests of his imperial Majesty: the basis of a negotiation must therefore be the complete evacuation by the French of the Prussian states and their strong places, and a satisfactory arrangement between the crowns of France and Sweden. On these conditions, it was intimated that regulations would be made with respect to commerce, and a system of licences would be adopted similar to that in France,

provided it were not calculated to augment the deterioration of the Russian trade. The result of the whole was, that a bulletin was issued from the French grand army on June 22d, briefly mentioning that no means were left for preserving a good understanding between the two courts, and that the Emperor had given orders for passing the Niemen. A proclamation to his soldiers in his usual confident and laconic style was his only declaration of war.

The French and their allies advanced in nine divisions, composing a total so much superior to that of the Russian armies, though no longer drained by a Turkish war, that a defensive plan alone could be thought of by the cabinet of Petersburg. The Niemen was passed without opposition, and Wilna, the capital of Lithuania, was given up on Napoleon's approach. The Duke of Reggio (Oudinot) having crossed the Vilia near Kowno, and advanced up the country, obliged the Prince of Witgenstein to evacuate Samogitia, and retreat to Wilkomirtz. At this period a lesson was given of the lasting ill consequences of violence and injustice, by a Polish diet held at Warsaw under French influence, which, in a report, stating with great force the wrongs sustained at different times by the Poles from Russia, promulgated an act of general confederation, the purpose of which was "to rejoin the fragments of their country, and restore it to its former existence and prosperity." It was also determined to send a deputation to the King of Saxony requesting his approbation of this act; and another to the French Emperor, imploring his protection of "the cradle of reviving Poland." Thus the majority of the Poles were also engaged in the cause of Napoleon.

The particulars of this memorable campaign will always constitute a very interesting part of military history, but a few leading incidents only can find place in this summary. The Russian plan was that of gradual retreat before the invaders, making a stand only in favourable positions, and trusting to the increasing difficulties of advance, and the inclemencies of the

seasons, to stop their career, and reverse their respective situations. The Emperor of Austria at this time recalled his ambassador from Petersburg, and sent his quota to act with the French. On the other hand, Russia acquired a new and zealous, though remote ally in England, who formed a treaty of friendship and reciprocal defence with her, and a similar one with Sweden. In proportion to the advance of the French into the Russian territories, was the resistance they experienced; and several bloody actions were fought, but with no decisive effect. The first great stand was made at the city of Smolensko, in the direct road to Moscow. On August 16th the heights above this place were possessed by the French army, and Napoleon in person made the dispositions for an attack on the Russians who were posted in great force for its defence. A dreadful conflagration broke out in the city on the 17th, which obliged the Russians to abandon it and retire across the Dnieper. The French entered, and crossing the river, made an attack on the Russian rear-guard, which brought on a considerable action, terminating in the unmolested retreat of the Russians.

Moscow was now the great object to be contended for, and the Russian main army took a strong position to cover it, near the village of Moskwa. Here they were attacked on September 7th, and the whole army on each side, of 120 or 130,000 men engaged from morning to night in a most sanguinary and obstinate combat. The result of this battle, which is named by the Russians that of Borodina, was a victory claimed by each party; but whilst Te Deum was singing at Petersburg, the French, with only a little skirmishing, entered Moscow on the 14th. Of the capture and destruction of this great capital very different accounts were given at the time; but it seems now well ascertained, that with the view of depriving the French of a place for winter-quarters in the heart of Russia, the governor of Moscow had caused the city to be set on fire in many parts, which occasioned a conflagration so extensive, that after it had raged several days, not more than a

tenth of the buildings remained unconsumed. This event was evidently a severe disappointment to the French Emperor, who continued a considerable time in the ruined city, as if it had still been his intention to retain it; but at length, the unshaken resolution of the Russians to persist in their system of making all sacrifices rather than submit to a conqueror; the assemblage of fresh bodies of their troops round Moscow; and the approach of inclement seasons; reminded him of the inutility and danger of prolonging his stay. His return was accelerated by a defeat given to Murat, who was bringing a reinforcement from Smolensko; on the day after which, October 19th, Napoleon quitted Moscow. The retreating French were closely pressed upon by an exasperated foe, and what was still more terrible, by a Russian winter, which set in with deep snow. Their sufferings were extreme, and their losses of every kind were prodigious. Horses died in such numbers, that the greatest part of the artillery was left behind, and the cavalry was nearly dismounted; whole bodies of men, disabled by cold and hunger, surrendered without resistance to the pursuers; and every thing wore the appearance of dismay and disaster. At length the army reached Wilna, whence, on December 5th, Napoleon proceeded in a rapid journey to Paris. During his absence, a conspiracy against his power had taken place in the capital, of which three ex-generals of the republican party were the leaders, but it had been readily suppressed. He was, however, probably anxious about his reception after the losses of which he was the occasion; but such was the impression his past glories had made upon the public mind, that all the accustomed demonstrations of attachment and reverence attended his re-appearance.

The retreating army soon broke up from Wilna, leaving behind a great number of cannon, and large magazines; and on December 12th Marshal Kutusoff established his head-quarters in that city. The pursuit was eagerly continued by the Russians, and few days occurred in which the fugitives did not experience

some disaster. Their total losses by capture, up to December 26th, were stated in the Russian accounts at 41 generals; 1298 officers, 167,510 non-commissioned and privates, and 1131 pieces of cannon.

The war between the Russians and Turks was resumed in February at the expiration of the armistice; but mutual exhaustion rendered the operations languid, and Russia found occasion for all her strength to resist her formidable invader. Negotiations for peace were therefore entered upon, which, after a considerable time spent in settling the conditions, terminated in a treaty announced in August. By its principal article respecting territory, the Pruth, from its entrance into Moldavia to its junction with the Danube, and the left bank of the Danube to its mouth at Kilia, were declared the European boundaries of the two empires, all the towns and districts to the left of the Pruth being relinquished by the Porte to Russia. At the close of the same month a treaty was concluded between Russia and Sweden. That with England has been mentioned. It was a token of mutual confidence, as well as of the sense of present danger on the part of Russia, that its naval force was sent to winter in the English ports.

In the rest of Europe, one of the most remarkable occurrences was the establishment of a constitution in Sicily on the model of that of Great Britain, and through English influence, as was apparent from the previous appointment of Lord William Bentinck to the office of captain general of the island. The King voluntarily resigned his authority to the Prince his son. The Queen, who headed a party in opposition to this change of government, was sent to reside in retirement, with a prohibition of visiting Palermo.

The temper of the government in the United States of America at the commencement of this year rendered it evident that nothing could prevent extremities with Great Britain, except the repeal by the latter of its orders in council, or a dread in the former of entering into a very hazardous contest, with a prospect of much domestic discontent. The spring passed in the dis-

cussion of various measures of preparation by the congress, in which the war-party displayed a manifest preponderance. An act for an embargo on all the shipping of the United States for the term of 90 days from its date passed the congress in the beginning of April, the purpose of which was to expedite the fitting out of the American ships of war, and to prevent any more pledges from remaining in the power of an enemy on the commencement of hostilities. Efforts were still made by the moderate party at least to retard a breach; and on May 29th Mr. Randolph brought the matter to a decision by moving in the House of Representatives a resolution, "That under the present circumstances it is inexpedient to resort to a war with Great Britain." This was negatived by 62 votes against 37. On June 1st the President sent a long message to both houses of congress, enumerating all the provocations received from England, and recommending the subject to their early deliberations; and on the 4th he laid before them copies of the correspondence already alluded to between Mr. Foster and Mr. Monroe, in which no expectation was held forth of any relaxation of its orders by the British government. The result of the subsequent discussions in congress was an act passed on June 18th, declaring the *actual existence* of war between the United States and Great Britain. This momentous determination was carried in the house of representatives by a majority of 79 against 49; the votes for war being chiefly from the Southern States to Pennsylvania inclusive; those for peace, from the eastern and northern, beginning with New York. The different feelings with respect to the event, in these distinct portions of the States, were manifested by the tokens of mourning displayed on the day of the declaration of war at Boston, in which city, the commercial connections with England, and an abhorrence of French politics, rendered the breach extremely unpopular; whereas at Baltimore, where, as in other Southern ports, a number of privateers were fitting out to prey upon the British West-India trade, a

furious mob perpetrated cruel atrocities against some of the opposers of the war.

The conquest of Canada was an object which the American government evidently had in view at the declaration of hostilities, and which they regarded as of easy attainment, the British force in that country being small, and the attachment of the people equivocal. Their operations against it commenced early in July. General Hull entered the province of Upper Canada above Fort Detroit, and issued a proclamation to the Canadians in a style expressing confidence of success. He proceeded against Fort Malden, but was foiled in his attempts to invest it; and the British General Brock having collected a force for its relief, the Americans retired to Detroit. Hull was there besieged in his turn, and on August 16th entered into a capitulation, by which he surrendered the fort with 2500 men, and 33 pieces of ordnance, to a much inferior force of British and Indians. This was a severe mortification to the American government, which, in its sanguine hopes of conquest, had refused to continue an armistice which had been temporarily agreed upon between General Prevost, the Governor-general of Canada, and General Dearborn, Commander-in-chief of the American forces in the northern states. The plan for the invasion of Canada, though disconcerted by this event, was by no means renounced; and a considerable American force being assembled in the neighbourhood of Niagara, General Wadsworth, on October 13th, made an attack upon the British position of Queenstown. General Brock, who hastened to its defence, was killed while cheering on his men, and the position was for a time taken; but a re-inforcement being brought up by Major-General Sheaffe, the Americans were defeated, and General Wadsworth, with 900 men, surrendered himself prisoner on the field.

These disgraces to the American arms by land were in some degree compensated by their successes at sea. Their navy consisted in a few frigates of a rate corresponding to the largest British, but in size, weight of

metal, and number of men, nearly equal to ships of the line. Hence, when encountered by British frigates, the latter found themselves as it were surprised into a conflict with antagonists of much superior force. The first action of this kind took place on August 19th between the English frigate *Guerriere*, Captain Dacres, and the American frigate *Constitution*, Captain Hull, in which the former, being soon totally disabled by the enemy's very superior fire, was obliged to strike. The injury she had received was so great, that the captors set her on fire. On October 25th the Macedonian English frigate, Captain Carden, descriing a large frigate under American colours, bore down, and an action ensued, which was continued with great bravery for more than two hours; when the English ship being reduced to the condition of a perfect wreck, and having incurred a heavy loss of men, to save the rest it was found necessary to surrender. Her antagonist proved to be the United States, Commodore Decatur, ranking as a frigate, with the scantling of a 74 gun ship. In an action between two sloops of war the advantage also was on the American side; and these events, so unusual to the British navy, though easily to be accounted for, were the source of as much mortification to one party, as triumph to the other. Numerous captures made by the American privateers among the West-India islands gave rise to complaints from the merchants and planters of Jamaica. Such were the principal circumstances of the first year of the American war.

In Spanish America, civil war continued to rage between the loyalists and independents with various success. A counter-revolution in favour of the mother country was planned at Buenos Ayres, which was detected before the time fixed for carrying it into effect, and occasioned the death of many of the conspirators. On the other hand, the independence declared by the confederation of Venezuela was nearly subverted by a revolution, the first cause of which appears to have been a terrible earthquake that ruined the greatest part of the city of Car-

raccas, with its port of La Guayra, and extended its destruction to several other towns of the province. The effect of this disaster on men's minds, improved by the priests, who represented it as a judgment in consequence of their disloyalty to King Ferdinand, produced such a defection from the cause of independence, that the principal places submitted to the royalist army with little resistance, and General Miranda was at length apprehended, and sent to Spain. From Mexico and other provinces a variety of actions and occurrences were reported, the general result of which was unfavourable to the independent party.

The events of the East Indies in this year were of no great importance. In February the strong fortress of Kallinjur in Bundelcund was attacked by a British force under Colonel Martindell, which was repulsed with considerable loss; but the courage displayed by the assailants made an impression on the commander, which induced him soon after to surrender by capitulation.

An expedition fitted out at Batavia, under the command of Colonel Gillespie and Captain Sayer of the *Leda*, against Palambang, obtained complete success. After its return, the army was employed against the Sultan of Djojocarta, who resisted the British government; and his fortress and town were stormed, and himself taken prisoner.

A definitive treaty of alliance between the governments of Persia and Great Britain, on conditions highly advantageous to this country, was concluded by Sir Gore Ousley.

Of the domestic occurrences of the year, the prevalence of a dangerous spirit of outrage and resistance to legal authority through a large manufacturing district has been noticed under the parliamentary proceedings to which it gave occasion. It was found necessary to station a large military force in the disturbed counties, which was several times called upon to act; and the law was also obliged to display its terrors by capital punishments of some of the most guilty. By these severities, which did not exceed the measure of the

occasion, tranquillity was for the most part restored before the close of the year ; yet occasional outrages continued, which would not permit the strong hand of coercion to be withdrawn. The uncommonly high price of provisions was also productive of riots in various parts, unconnected with the former, and which required no extraordinary exertions for their suppression.

As the ministers, at the time of the prorogation of parliament, appeared to be possessed of all the usual influence of government, the dissolution of parliament by proclamation on September 29th, surprised all who were not in the secrets of state ; for although these assemblies had not lately been allowed to live out their assigned period, yet the present had 19 months to run before its natural termination. The motive for this measure was left to be conjectured ; and the remainder of the year was chiefly occupied with the bustle of a general election, which, however, was attended with fewer contests than usual, especially for the counties. The new parliament assembled on November 24th, when the House of Commons unanimously re-chose Mr. Abbot for their Speaker. On the 30th, the Prince Regent for the first time delivered a speech from the throne, the topics of which were principally the political and military occurrences of the year. When the usual motion for the address was moved in the House of Lords, the Marquis Wellesley took occasion, from a passage in the speech recommending firmness and perseverance in the prosecution of the war, to review the past Spanish campaign, and endeavoured to prove that the system adopted by the ministry was "timid without prudence, and narrow without economy ; profuse without the fruits of expenditure, and slow without the benefits of caution." He further touched upon omissions in the speech, particularly that of any mention of the Catholic question. Lord Liverpool in reply dwelt upon the exertions which had been made, and asserted that there had never been any requisition from Lord Wellington which

was not complied with. As to the Catholic question, he confessed that he had not been able to see his way to a satisfactory adjustment. Mr. Canning in the House of Commons made a speech of a similar tenor with that of the marquis. The addresses were voted in each House without a division. *

Of the parliamentary proceedings previously to the Christmas recess, the most observable were a grant to Lord Wellington of 100,000 *l.* ; the renewal of the gold-coin bill ; and the grant of a relief of 200,000 *l.* to the sufferers in Russia.

A. D. 1813.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 53 & 54.
 ——— PARLIAMENT 1 & 2.

Declaration of the Prince Regent respecting the Causes of War with America. — Consequent Address. — Parliamentary Proceedings concerning the Roman Catholics: Mr. Grattan's Bill defeated. — New East India Charter. — Mr. Fanshott's new financial Plan, and Budget. — Appointment of a Vice-Chancellor. — Bill for augmenting the Stipends of Curates. — Extension of Toleration to Unitarians. — War in Spain. — Advance of Lord Wellington from his Winter Quarters. — Battle of Vittoria, and Retreat of the French to their own Country. — Failure of Sir J. Murray at Tarragona. — St. Sebastian taken by the Allied Army. — Lord Wellington's Entrance into France, and farther Operations. — Valencia and Tarragona evacuated by the French. — Defection of Prussia from the French, and Alliance with Russia. — Advance of the Russian Army into Germany. — New Preparations of Napoleon. — He joins the Army. — Battle of Gross Groschen, and its results. — King of Saxony joins the French. — The latter advance to the Oder. — Treaty of Sweden with Great Britain and Russia. — Hamburg. — Armistice and Negotiations for Peace. — Austria declares War against France. — Renewal of Hostilities. — Failure of the Allies at Dresden, and Consequences. — Bavaria joins the Allied Powers. — The opposite Armies concentrated at Leipsic. — Actions and final Event. — Retreat of the French, and return of Napoleon to France. — Progress of the Liberation of Germany. — Revolution in Holland, and Restoration of the Prince of Orange. — War between Denmark and Sweden. — Surrender of Dresden and Stettin. — Actions in Italy. — Affairs of Switzerland. — Events of the War with the United States of America. — Renewed Attempt on Canada defeated. — Naval Actions. — Fiume taken. — The Plague at Malta. — Hurricanes in the West Indies. — Parliament re-assembled. — Royal Speech. — Bill for augmenting the disposable Force.

ON the meeting of parliament after the recess, Lord Castlereagh laid before the House of Commons the papers which related to the discussions with the American .

government, together with a declaration from the Prince Regent respecting the origin and causes of the war with the United States. This document gave a retrospective view of the measures adopted by the government of the States with regard to France and England, and displayed their partiality towards the former power. It recited the motives which had produced a revocation of the orders in council, and noticed the precipitation with which war had been proclaimed on the part of the States, and their refusal to consent to a cessation of hostilities. In fine, his Royal Highness declared, that he can never consent to admit the following points: That any blockade is illegal which has been duly notified, and is supported by an adequate force, merely on account of its extent, or because the ports and coasts blockaded are not at the same time invested by land: that neutral trade with Great Britain can be made a public crime subjecting ships to be denationalised: that Great Britain can be debarred of just retaliation through fear of eventually affecting the interests of a neutral: that the search of neutral vessels in time of war, and the impressment of British seamen found therein, can be deemed any violation of a neutral flag: that taking such seamen from on board such vessels can be considered as a hostile measure. This declaration seems important, as comprizing the principal of those maritime rights which are held so tenaciously by Great Britain.

A result of this communication to parliament was a motion, on February 18th, by Lord Castlereagh, for an address to the Prince Regent, expressing entire approbation of the resistance opposed by his Royal Highness to the unjustifiable claims of the American government, and full conviction of the justice of the war in which we were engaged, with assurances of the cordial support of that House in every measure necessary for prosecuting the war with vigour, and bringing it to an honourable termination. In the speech introductory to this motion, and the subsequent debate, while the

ministers and their friends inculcated the idea that the Americans were induced to declare war by the prevalence of a French, or an anti-anglican party, it was contended on the other side, that the cause of the war was in the orders of council, and might have been prevented by their timely repeal. The address was, however, carried without opposition. A similar motion was made in the House of Lords by Lord Bathurst, with the same result.

At this period, the question concerning the claims of the Roman Catholics was become a matter of general interest, and the tables of both Houses of parliament had been crowded at the close of the past, and the beginning of the present year, with petitions on the subject, of which a great majority were in opposition to those claims. Its parliamentary discussion recommenced on February 25th, with a motion by Mr. Grattan for a committee of the whole House, to take into consideration the state of the laws affecting his Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects in Great Britain and Ireland. The debate, in which it was scarcely possible to find new arguments on the general topic, and the new points of which chiefly referred to the conduct of the Irish Catholics since their minds had been irritated by disappointment, was continued by adjournment during four days. It terminated in a division, which produced for the motion 264 votes, against it 224. The proposed committee being then formed, Mr. Grattan mentioned his intention of offering two resolutions: 1. That the Catholic disabilities should be removed: 2. That the establishments in church and state ought to be effectually secured. He then made a motion declarative of the expediency of the removal of the Catholic disabilities, with certain exceptions and regulations, which on a division, was carried by 186 to 119.

On April 30th Mr. Grattan introduced a bill conformable to this resolution. It contained an enactment that it should be lawful for persons professing the Roman catholic religion to sit and vote in either House of

parliament after a certain declaration and oath, instead of the oaths of allegiance, abjuration, and supremacy, and the declarations against transubstantiation and the invocation of saints. The oath was of great length, and included a renunciation of all such supposed articles of popery as asserted the temporal jurisdiction or authority of the pope or councils in these kingdoms, his infallibility and right to forgive sins without repentance, and whatever else was contrary to morality or subversive of the existing church establishment. Taking the same oath was likewise declared sufficient for the admission of catholics to the right of voting for members of parliament, and to all offices civil and military, with the exception of those of lord high chancellor, keeper of the great seal, and lord lieutenant of Ireland. Other exceptions were made for the security of the protestant churches of the three kingdoms. A further enactment related to the Roman catholic clergy, and imposed a particular oath on them, against consenting to the appointment of bishops except such as were of unimpeachable loyalty, and against any correspondence with the Roman see, except on matters purely ecclesiastical. On May 13th the second reading of the bill being moved, it was attacked by Dr. Duigenan, who made a motion for deferring the reading to that day three months. This was negatived by 215 to 203, and the bill was read and committed. A number of clauses were afterwards added, the object of which was the appointment of two commissioners, one for Great Britain, the other for Ireland, for examining into the loyalty and peaceable conduct of every person proposed for a bishop or dean among the Roman catholics. On May 24th the House sitting in a committee on the bill, the Speaker rose, and began with enquiring whether this bill was likely to become a basis of general concord and satisfaction. As far as we knew of the proceedings of the Roman catholics, some of the principal among the laity had declared against it, and the clergy had loudly exclaimed against its ecclesiastical provisions. Of the protestants, it was needless to ask if they could be content with

placing the government, if not the crown, of Ireland, within the reach of the catholics, and surrounding the sovereign himself with ministers of state of a religion hostile to his own right of succession. After many observations of this tenor, and aiming to prove the insufficiency of the safeguards to the protestant constitution offered in the bill, he moved that the words "to sit and vote in either House of parliament," in the first clause, be left out of the bill. A long debate followed, terminating in a division by which the Speaker's motion was carried by a majority of four, the numbers being 251 to 247. Mr. Ponsonby then declared, that as the bill without this clause was neither worthy of the acceptance of the catholics, nor of the support of the friends of concession, he should move that the chairman do now leave the chair; which being carried without a division, the bill was abandoned. The only farther proceeding relative to the catholic question during this session, was a notice by Mr. Grattan of his intention to bring in another bill for their relief early in the ensuing session.

At the same time that the religious and political feelings of the nation were so much agitated by the catholic question, the interest of the commercial part of the community was not less excited by the prospects which the approaching expiration of the charter of the East India Company laid open. At the close of the last year there was not a port in the island of the least consequence which had not sent a petition to parliament for throwing open the East India trade; whilst the company itself, and all the trading bodies connected with it, had been actively employed in framing counter-petitions. The matter was brought regularly before the notice of the House of Commons on March 22d, when it resolved itself into a committee for considering of the affairs of the East India Company.

Lord Castlereagh, in introducing the subject, observed that there were three propositions which offered themselves to consideration; Whether the existing government in India should be allowed to continue in its present state — whether an entire change should be

effected in it — or whether some middle course could be adopted that would satisfy all parties. Having given his reasons for dismissing the two extremes of the question, he proceeded to state those modifications in the existing system which were the subject of certain resolutions to be laid before the committee. After the ministerial plan had been submitted to the House by the production of these resolutions, an examination of evidence was commenced in both Houses, which ran to great length, and occupied much of the attention of parliament during several months. As the facts produced, and the arguments employed by the numerous speakers on both sides, in the discussion of this important question, would fill volumes, nothing further can be here attempted, than to state the leading provisions of the bill formed upon the basis of the resolutions, which passed into a law shortly before the termination of the session.

The first clause continued in the possession of the Company all its former territories in India, with the later acquisitions, continental and insular, to the north of the equator, for a further term of 20 years, reckoned from April 10th, 1814. The exclusive right of trading to China, and of trafficking in tea, was preserved to the Company. The King's subjects in general were admitted to trade to and from all ports within the Company's present limits, China excepted, on certain specified conditions. By these conditions, a licence from the court of directors was required for all ships in private trade, which the directors were bound to grant, upon application, to the ships proceeding to the settlements of Fort William, Fort St. George, Bombay, and Prince of Wales's Island; to all other places, a special licence was required, which the directors might grant or refuse, but under appeal to the board of commissioners for India (board of control) which might oblige them to issue the licence. A church establishment was fixed for India, consisting of a bishop and three archdeacons. In the application of the Company's territorial revenues, the order of precedence was to be, 1. in maintaining the military force: 2. in paying the interest of the

Company's debts in England ; 3. in paying the expences of the establishments at their settlements ; 4. towards the liquidation of their territorial debt, their bond debt at home, or such other purposes as the directors, with the approbation of the board of commissioners, might appoint. A sum equal to the payments made from the commercial fund at home, on account of territorial charges in the year preceding, was to be annually issued in India for the purpose of investment or of remittance to England. The dividend on India stock was limited to 10 per cent. till the fund called separate fund was exhausted, after which, to be ten and a half per cent. The number of King's forces, for which payment is to be made by the company, was limited to 20,000, unless a greater number should be sent to India at the requisition of the court of directors.

The expences of the war in which Great Britain was engaged were now so greatly augmented, with a prospect of still farther increase in proportion to the extension of our operations and alliances, that the necessity of new financial measures was apparent ; and on March 3d, the House of Commons sitting in a committee of finances, the chancellor of the exchequer, Mr. Vansittart, rose to open the subject. He began with adverting to two measures which he had formerly mentioned, the adoption of some more efficacious means for the redemption of the land-tax, and the provision of an increased proportion of sinking-fund for the loan of each year ; for the first, he trusted to a simplification of the mode of redemption ; for the second, he would recommend that the increase should be one half of the interest of the excess of the loan. He then proceeded to the new measure which he intended to propose, and which consisted in the repeal of so much of the sinking-fund act of 1802 as directed that the whole sinking-fund then existing should continue to accumulate at compound interest, till the redemption of the whole funded debt then remaining unredeemed. After some observations in defence of this plan, and a reference to certain tables for its mode of operation, he said that the

immediate result of the system would be equal to a subsidy of above 100 millions, so that upon the supposition of a continuance of the war four years longer, it might be hoped that it would not be necessary to impose any other new taxes than such as were requisite for the additions to the sinking-fund above-mentioned.

This plan, the essence of which was a relief of the present public burdens, by having recourse to the operations of the sinking-fund, destined for the payment of the national debt, met with opposition ; but the bill founded upon it was carried into a law by a great majority.

The budget was introduced on March 31st, in which the requisite supplies of the year were stated at a sum exceeding 72 millions for Great Britain and Ireland, leaving a total charge to the former of 68,686,000*l*. Of the ways and means were, war taxes 21 millions, a loan of 21 millions, and a vote of credit of six millions.

Some other proceedings of parliament in this session, of less general import, are entitled to notice.

The inconveniences arising from the great accumulation of business in the court of chancery, which rendered it impossible for the same person to preside in that court, and also to perform all his functions in the House of Lords, had for a considerable time engaged the attention of parliament ; and a bill for the appointment of a new law-officer, under the title of Vice-chancellor, had in the last session passed the House of Lords, but had miscarried in that of Commons. It was again introduced by Lord Redesdale on the assembling of a new parliament, and after it had undergone much discussion and opposition, was passed into a law. By its provisions, a Vice-chancellor of England was appointed, with full power to determine all cases of law and equity in the court of chancery to the same extent as the chancellors have been accustomed to do, and his decrees to be of equal validity, but subject to the revision of the lord chancellor, and not enrolled till they have been signed by him.

The non-residence of the parochial clergy, and the necessitous condition of those who were hired to do their duty, having long been a subject of scandal to the friends of the church of England, various plans had been suggested for remedying the evil, one of which was an augmentation of the stipends of curates, and establishing some proportion between them and that of the livings which they served. A bill for this purpose was introduced into the House of Lords by the Earl of Harrowby in March. Though opposed both from the episcopal and the legal benches, it passed that House by a majority of 37 against 22; and afterwards was carried through the House of Commons by a much greater majority, and passed into a law. By this act, salaries were assigned to curates, to be appointed by the bishops on licensing them, which in no case were to be less than 80*l.*, or the whole value of the benefice when inferior to that sum; from which they rose, by gradations formed on the value of the benefice and the population of the parish, up to 150*l.*

A further extension was given to the act for religious toleration, by a bill, introduced on May 5th by Mr. William Smith, for removing certain penalties imposed on persons impugning the doctrine of the Trinity. Such was the liberal spirit of the time, that it underwent no opposition in either House; the archbishop of Canterbury and the bishop of Chester only observing that it had not been called for by any attempt to inflict penalties upon, or impede the worship of, the Unitarians.

Parliament was prorogued on July 22d, after a speech delivered by the Prince Regent from the throne, the substance of which related chiefly to the great events, political and military, to which we are now to proceed.

At the close of the preceding year, the French army in Spain was cantoned in the neighbourhood of Salamanca and Valladolid, and occupied various posts on the Tagus. King Joseph was at Madrid, and Soult had his head-quarters at Toledo. Lord Wellington,

who at this time may be regarded as having the whole peninsula under his military care, employed the winter in examining different posts of the allied troops, and visiting Cadiz and Lisbon, at which last capital he was received with triumphal honours. In February, the French cantoned about the Upper Tormes made an attack on a post of Sir Rowland Hill's division, at Bejar, and were repulsed with loss. Sir R. Hill then pushed forward a brigade to Placentia. At this time the revulsion of the Russian war was operating on the French in Spain, who were withdrawing their troops towards the centre, and taking some strong positions in the north and north-east, upon a contracted scale of defensive operation.

Sir John Murray, who was with an allied army at Alicant, made an attack on the French at Alcoy, and forcing their position, advanced up the country. This movement brought Suchet from Valencia, who took the command upon the Xucar. He then marched to Villena, and took its castle with a Spanish garrison; and falling upon the advanced troops of the allied army under Colonel Adams, he obliged them to draw back upon the main army at Castalla. On April 13th Suchet made a general attack on the line of the allies, who were posted on high ground, protected by batteries; but it was repulsed with a considerable loss, and he retreated to Villena.

It was not till late in May that Lord Wellington was enabled, by the recovery of his sick, and the arrival of reinforcements from England, to move from his quarters at Freynada, and march to Salamanca. The army advanced to Toro, pursuing the enemy, who had now broken up from the Tagus and Madrid, and on June 4th had evacuated Valladolid. They were closely followed by Lord Wellington, whose right wing, under Sir R. Hill, on the 12th reconnoitred their position near Burgos. They did not choose again to defend the castle; but having destroyed, as far as they were able, the works which they had constructed at great expence, their whole army retreated through Burgos, and

marched towards the Ebro. The allied army crossed that river on the 14th and 15th, and marched upon Vittoria. On the 19th the French army, under the command of King Joseph, with Marshal Jourdan as his major-general, and consisting of the whole south and centre armies, the cavalry of the army named of Portugal, and some troops of that of the north, took a position in front of Vittoria. On the 20th Lord Wellington reconnoitred the enemy previously to an attack on the morrow. The battle began with a severe contest for the possession of some heights occupied by the French, which were at length carried; and all the columns of that part of the line having passed the intervening river, the Zadora, and moved to the attack of the enemy's centre, he abandoned his position, and commenced a retreat in good order to Vittoria. The allies in another part carried some villages by storm, and drove the French from all their defences: and their retreat became so rapid as not to permit them to carry off their artillery and baggage, the whole of which became prize to the victors, to the amount of 151 pieces of cannon, and 415 waggons of ammunition. The loss of the French in men is not particularly stated, but must have been very considerable, both on the field, and in prisoners during the pursuit. That of the allied army was about 700 killed, and 4000 wounded, of whom the greatest share was British. Such was the battle of Vittoria, which added a new laurel to the illustrious general. The French retired by Pamplona on the road of Roncevalles, and being driven by Sir Thomas Graham, who had taken Tolosa, from all their strong posts, they at length crossed the Bidassoa by the bridge of Irun, and entered France.

Events of a different kind were in the meantime passing on the eastern coast of Spain, where Sir John Murray on May 31st embarked his force on board the English fleet on that station, and on June 3d invested Tarragona. After taking Fort St. Philippe on the Col de Balaguer, which blocks the direct road from Tortosa to Tarragona, and advancing his batteries against the

besieged place, he received reports that Suchet was marching from Valencia for its relief with forces superior in number and quality to his own. Without waiting for any certain tidings of the enemy's approach, or information of his actual strength, he determined upon avoiding the conflict by a timely retreat; and accordingly re-embarked his army, leaving his cannon in the batteries, although Admiral Hallowell was of opinion that they might have been brought off if he had remained till the night. The expedition then sailed back to Alicant, and Suchet did not fail to triumph in the result.

The centre of the French retreating army having still maintained itself in a strong position on the Spanish side of the frontier, Sir R. Hill made an attack upon them with a combined force of British and Portuguese, and obliged them to withdraw into France. Marshal Soult, who was now constituted commander-in-chief of the French troops in Spain and the southern provinces of France, joined the army on July 13th. Collecting on the 24th, at St. Jean Pied de Port, his right and left wings and a part of his centre, to the amount of 30 or 40,000 men, he made an attack on an English post at Roncevalles, in which he succeeded, and other posts were also withdrawn. Various operations of attack and defence were carried on during some following days, and after much mutual loss, the allied army on August 1st was nearly in its former position. The siege of St. Sebastian had in the meantime been proceeding under the conduct of Sir Thomas Graham, and an unsuccessful attempt to storm had been made on July 25th, which occasioned a severe loss of men. Another assault was undertaken by the order of Lord Wellington on August 31st, which, though attended with peculiar and unforeseen difficulties, succeeded, at the cost of 2300 in killed and wounded. The importance of the place was proved by a vigorous effort for its relief, which was repulsed by the Spanish troops alone. The strong castle of St. Sebastian was taken on

September 18th, in the operations against which, the British navy gave effectual assistance.

Lord Wellington's entrance into France was effected on October 7th, by crossing the Bidassoa, which was performed at different fords by a series of spirited actions against the enemy's defences. The strong fortress of Pamplona, which had been under blockade from the time of the battle of Vittoria, was reduced to capitulate on October 31st to General Don Carlos d'España, the garrison remaining prisoners of war. This event having disengaged the right of the allied army from the service of covering the blockade, Lord Wellington put in execution a meditated operation against the French troops opposed to him, the object of which was to force their centre, and establish the allied army in rear of their right. The attack was made by different columns on November 10th, and after a variety of actions which occupied the whole day, the purpose was attained at night. The French during the night quitted all their works and posts in front of St. Jean de Leon, and crossed the Nivelle; and being pursued on the next day, they retired to an entrenched camp in front of Bayonne. The result of this operation was expelling the French from positions which they had been fortifying with great labour for three months, and taking from them 51 pieces of cannon and 1400 prisoners. On December 9th, the river Nive was crossed by a part of the allied army; and on the four following days several desperate attacks were made by the French during the completion of this passage, which were finally repelled, and the enemy, after great loss, withdrew to his entrenchments. The British and Portuguese during these days had between 4 and 5000 killed, wounded, and missing. Thus the year closed with a firm footing on French territory gained by the army under Lord Wellington.

On the eastern side of Spain success was still dubious. Suchet had evacuated Valencia in July, which was entered by General Elio with the second Spanish army; and the French retreated northwards, withdrawing the

garrison of Segorbe. Lord W. Bentinck, who had succeeded to the command of the British army in that quarter, resumed the siege of Tarragona, for the relief of which Suchet collected his troops, and on August 10th advanced to Villa Franca. The intelligence of his approach caused the English general to suspend the operations of the siege, and finding no secure position in the vicinity, he fell back upon Cambrills, which determination was entirely approved by Lord Wellington. The French afterwards blew up the works of Tarragona, and retired.

Of the extraordinary and momentous events that were passing during all this period on the great theatre of continental warfare, the first to be noticed was an incident principally important as the commencement of that political change which altered the whole state of European affairs. The Prussians, as allies to the French, had chiefly acted on the coast of the Baltic, and been employed in the siege of Riga. On the retreat of Marshal Macdonald from that place, the Russian General Witgenstein, advancing along the Niemen, succeeded in cutting off from the marshal a body of Prussians of about 15,000 men under the command of General d'Yorck, who entered into a convention by which he agreed to remain neutral with the troops under his orders. The King of Prussia was at present necessitated to appear to disapprove his general's conduct, but it can scarcely be doubted that he secretly concurred in it. The French loudly exclaimed against it as treachery. Witgenstein, pursuing Macdonald, entered Königsberg without resistance, on January 6th. Elbing, Marienburg, and other towns in that quarter, were deserted by the French, and occupied by the Russians, who also carried on operations against the retreating Saxons and Austrians. At Königsberg a regency was established in the name of the King of Prussia, which issued a proclamation calling on the people to come forwards for the rescue of their prince and country from French bondage; and a number of young men joined the troops under D'Yorck,

who had been declared commander-in-chief of the patriotic army. The King himself, in the end of January, withdrew from Potsdam, where he was in the power of the French garrison of Berlin, and suddenly removed to Breslau. He there issued proclamations summoning his subjects to take arms in defence of their King and country, but without specifying the enemy against whom they were to be employed. His purpose, however, was become so manifest, that the Viceroy of Italy, Eugene Beauharnois, then at Berlin, forbade recruiting in that capital.

The Russians continued to advance, the Emperor being at the head of the main army. On February 8th, General Miloradovitch entered Warsaw, being met by a deputation from the city, which presented to him the keys. Dantzic and Thorn were now invested by them, and Alexander reached Polotzk. The Austrians concluded an unlimited truce and withdrew into Galicia. The Saxons endeavoured to profit of this circumstance, and retreat into their own country behind the Austrians; but were pursued, and many of them were taken prisoners. The King of Prussia now assumed the part of a mediator between the belligerent parties, and on February 15th made proposals for a truce, which do not appear to have been attended to; and on the 22d he took the decisive step of forming a treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, with the Emperor of Russia. The two sovereigns had an interview in March at Breslau, from which city the King of Prussia issued a proclamation to his people, touching upon the motives which had induced him to join his arms with those of Russia.

The following sentence may be regarded as containing its essence. "We bent under the superior power of France. That peace which deprived me of half my subjects, procured us no blessings, on the contrary, it was more injurious to us than war itself." The moral question respecting this change was afterwards discussed at length between the Prussian minister at Paris, and the Duke of Bassano, and it was not difficult to prove abuse of power on the one part, and breach of engage-

ments on the other; but when did a vanquished power decline a favourable opportunity for recovering its rank, and annulling forced concessions?

The French evacuated Berlin on March 3d, which was entered by the Russians on the following day. General Morand, who had occupied Swedish Pomerania with a small body of troops, now followed the French main army, joined by those who had held Hamburg, which city was entered by the Russian General Tettenborne on the 18th. Morand was overtaken in his retreat, and killed in battle, and all his remaining troops were made prisoners. The King of Saxony had quitted Dresden on the approach of the Russians, a corps of whom took possession of the part of the city on the right bank of the Elbe. A Swedish force advanced to Stralsund; and in April, Thorn surrendered to the Russians.

Whilst the reflux of war from the ruins of Moscow was rolling on thus rapidly, the French Emperor, with unabated activity and confidence, was busied at Paris, in mustering all the force of the great dominion of which he was still absolute master, for a powerful effort to recover his lost ground. By a *senatus-consultum* of January 11th, 350,000 men were placed at his disposal. He adjusted his differences with the Roman See in conferences held with the Pope at Fontainebleau, where a new concordat was signed between them. He caused the Empress to be declared Regent during his absence, published a flattering exposé of the state of the French empire, and having re-animated the buoyant spirits of the nation, he set out for the army on April 15th. The French forces, formidable in number and appointment, consisted of twelve corps, besides the Imperial guards. The Viceroy of Italy was appointed second in command, and Berthier chief of the staff. The several corps were placed under marshals and generals long known in the service, and no traces appeared of the Russian disasters.

The march of the French divisions was directed so as to form a junction between them near Jena and upon the Saale. The allied armies of Russians and Prussians

had for some time been concentrating near Leipsic: they were under the supreme command of General Witgenstein, the successor of the veteran Kutusoff, who died while on his march. The French having crossed the Saale, a junction was made of the Russians and Prussians between Leipsic and Altenburg, the Sovereign of each being present with his troops, while Napoleon took the command of his own army. On May 2d a general engagement occurred at Gross Groschen, near the plain of Lutzen, of which the result, after much slaughter, was that the allies kept the field, and the French retreated. The consequences, however, were the subsequent advance of the French to the Elbe, which river they crossed at Dresden and Meissen, the establishment of Napoleon's head-quarters at Dresden, and their occupation of Leipsic. The King of Saxony at this time joined his forces to those of France. The French pushed on through a series of bloody and well-contested actions, of which very different accounts were given by the two parties. The principal of these was an attack by Napoleon with his whole force, May 19th, on the allies in advance of Wurtschen and Hochkirchen, which terminated in a retreat of the allied army, but in good order: In fine, the advance of the French divisions through Silesia towards the Oder met with no effectual opposition, and on June 1st, Breslau was entered by Lauriston.

Another accession had in the meantime been made to the league against the French Emperor. Sweden, which, though gradually liberating herself from the dictation of France, had only asserted an independent neutrality, was induced, by the turn which affairs had taken, openly to join the cause of the allies. In March, a subsidy of treaty and alliance was signed between the courts of Stockholm and London, by which the former engaged to employ a force of not less than 30,000 men on the continent, to act under the Crown Prince of Sweden, in concert with the Russian troops, in consideration of a subsidy of one million from England. The treaty referred to an engagement already subsisting between

Russia and Sweden, an article of which was the annexation in perpetuity of the kingdom of Norway to the latter; and Great Britain promised to assist in bringing this to effect, provided the King of Denmark should previously have refused to join the alliance of the North. From this time the Swedes were active in their preparations to fulfil their part of the obligation, but the addition of their weight was little felt in this early part of the campaign. The imminent danger of Hamburg, which had been deserted by the Russians, and was now threatened by a French army under Davoust, induced the Swedes to throw a body of men into the city for its defence; but the now declared enmity of Denmark occasioned their recall, and that unfortunate city was repossessed by the French, in junction with the Danes, on May 30th.

Napoleon, notwithstanding a temporary tide of success, was too sensible of the difficulties gathering round him not to desire a peace which might still leave him at the head of the European potentates; and through the medium of Austria he transmitted to the Emperor Alexander proposals for an armistice, preparatory to a congress to be holden at Prague in order to a general pacification. The armistice was mutually ratified on June 4th, and a demarcation of limits between the armies was made according to their present occupation. The negotiations at Prague proceeded but slowly, and a prolongation of the armistice took place, which carried it to August 10th. All Germany in the meantime resounded with preparations for war; but the public attention was chiefly attracted to those of Austria, which were on such a scale as manifestly denoted an intention of taking a leading part in the future transactions.

At length the armistice terminated without having opened a road to peace; and on August 11th Count Metternich, the Austrian minister at the congress of Prague, delivered to the French minister a declaration of war on the part of his court against France. The usurpations of the French Emperor in the north of

Germany, and the impossibility of a lasting peace in Europe whilst he persisted in the same system of policy, were the principal reasons produced in justification of this measure ; the real inducement to which was doubtless the prospect of a favourable opportunity for reducing a power grown too great for the security and independence of the rest of the European continent. This declaration was followed by a treaty of amity and defensive alliance between the Courts of Vienna and Petersburg. Russia and Prussia had previously formed treaties with Great Britain, by which the latter engaged herself to pay sums of money to each, in consideration of the armies they were to bring into the field.

The plan of the allies on the resumption of hostilities, was to drive back the French from their forward positions on the right bank of the Elbe, and in Lusatia and Silesia, by attacks on the front and flank ; which after various actions so far succeeded, that on the 26th, the advanced guards of the allies encamped on the heights above Dresden, into the suburbs of which city and its outworks, the French had withdrawn. During several months their engineers had been occupied in adding to the fortifications of the place, and Napoleon was within the walls with a force estimated at 130,000 men ; it therefore seems to have been a rash resolution of the allied generals to make an attempt for carrying it by assault. This took place on the 27th, and though conducted with undaunted valour, was repulsed after a great loss of men, which fell chiefly on the Austrians. On the following day Napoleon led out his troops, supported by an immense artillery, to the attack of the allies. One of the incidents of the bloody action which ensued was a mortal wound received by the celebrated General Moreau, who had left his retreat in America to visit his comrade in arms, the Crown Prince of Sweden, and had joined that party whose cause he considered as that of public liberty. At the conclusion of a most severe combat, the allies retired ; and the extent of their loss may be

estimated by their subsequent retrograde movements across the mountainous ridge which separates Saxony from Bohemia. They were followed by a large division of the French army, which, after some success, received an effectual check by an action in which General Vandamme was taken prisoner with 10,000 men, and his artillery and baggage.

It was now the object of the allies to recover their ground, and beat back the French, who, in different parts, were making advantage of a temporary superiority. The Crown Prince of Sweden now joined in the operations of the allies; and the active and intrepid Marshal Blucher obtained that distinction which has attached so much glory to his name. The successes of the allied arms in many well-fought actions, more than compensated their failures before Dresden. Silesia was entirely delivered from the enemy. Saxony was re-entered by the Russians and Prussians, the Austrians advanced again from Bohemia, and at length the French measured back their steps to the Elbe after severe losses. Leipsic was now the point to which the principal efforts of the allies were directed; and Napoleon, on October 5th, quitted Dresden in company with the king of Saxony, and took post about 25 miles from Leipsic, where he concentrated his forces to the supposed number of 180,000 men. At this period an important accession was made to the strength of the allies by a treaty between Austria and Bavaria, in virtue of which, 55,000 Bavarian troops were to act in conjunction with the Austrians. This power having been always favoured by the French as a counterpoise to the House of Austria, a stronger proof could not be given of the general concurrence of Germany to throw off the yoke of Napoleon, than its desertion of his alliance.

The grand contest for the city of Leipsic, for the decision of which a greater force was assembled than had almost ever acted on so confined a theatre, is not to be described without a minute detail, its results alone can therefore be here related. The first general attack

of the grand army took place to the south of the town on October 16th, which, after much slaughter, left the opposite armies in nearly the position they held at its commencement. The 17th passed chiefly in preparation for the great action of the next day, which was directed upon the town itself. At its conclusion, the French had lost 40,000 men in killed, wounded, and prisoners, with 65 pieces of cannon. Seventeen battalions of their German auxiliaries deserted them during the conflict. The victors remained that night on their ground. On the morning of the 19th, the King of Saxony sent a flag to the Emperor Alexander, intreating him to spare the town, but it being considered as a feint to gain time, an assault was immediately ordered. Leipsic was carried after a short resistance, and the allies entered two hours after Napoleon had made his escape. The King of Saxony with all his court, the French garrison and rear-guard of 30,000 men, and the sick and wounded computed at 22,000, with the magazines, stores, and artillery, were taken with the city. No success could be more complete.

The retreat of the remaining French army was all confusion and disarray, and many prisoners and other spoils fell into the hands of the pursuers. The combined Bavarian and Austrian army under General Wrede posted itself at Hanau to intercept Napoleon's retreat to Frankfort. Some hard fighting occurred in the attempt, and the allies underwent a considerable loss; the French were, however, still pursued till their arrival at Frankfort. On November 2d, Napoleon reached Mentz in security, and *boasted* of having brought back 100,000 men of the hosts which he led to the Elbe and Oder. This was indeed an exaggeration; but a very considerable number of French were left in garrisons, which for a long time delayed the entire liberation of Germany.

That desirable undertaking was immediately entered upon by the allies. The Crown Prince of Sweden marched to Hanover on October 6th, where his entry was preceded by a proclamation to the Hanoverians in the

name of the privy-councillors of the King of Great Britain, appointed to the electoral ministry of Brunswick-Luneburg, which announced their resumption of the government of the electoral dominions. This return to the rule of a mild and legitimate sovereign from that of an oppressive conqueror, infused universal joy among the people. The Crown Prince then repaired to Bremen, which city he entered on the 17th. He afterwards restored Lubeck to its former freedom, and thence marched to the Danish frontier to pursue his own plans of policy. The two allied Emperors, and the Kings of Prussia and Bavaria, met at Frankfort in the beginning of November, which was declared a free city. About this time the King of Wurtemberg made a treaty with the Emperor of Austria, by which he renounced the confederacy of the Rhine, and agreed to unite his troops with those of the allies.

The most important and unexpected effect of this great change of fortune, was a revolution by which Holland was broken off from the dominion of France, and restored to her independence. Early in the spring an insurrection had been planned at Amsterdam in favour of the House of Orange, but had been suppressed by the punishment of those concerned in it. The approach of the allied troops to the Dutch frontier roused again to action the repressed public feeling; and apparently without any previous concert, the people of Amsterdam, on November 15th, rose in a body, hoisted the Orange colours, proclaimed the sovereignty of that House, and dismissing the French authorities, organized a temporary administration. Their example was followed by the principal towns in the provinces of Holland and Utrecht; and intelligence of these events was brought to London on the 21st, by a deputation for the purpose of inviting the Prince of Orange to come over and place himself at the head of his countrymen, with which he readily complied. The English government immediately resolved to afford instant aid to the Dutch with all the force that could be furnished, and the Prince of Orange embarked in a man of war

on the 25th. So unpremeditated had been the movement at Amsterdam, that no regular military force was at hand to support the revolution; and although the French troops in the country were few, and their commanders were panic-struck, it was a great relief to the public when a body of 300 Cossacks entered Amsterdam. The Russian army, under General Winzingerode, now crossed the Issel and proceeded to Amersfort. The French main body at Gorcum, having recovered their spirits, made an advance upon Amsterdam, Dordrecht, and Woerden. They were repulsed at the two former places, but entered the latter, where they committed shameful outrages. At length sufficient aid arrived from England and other parts to effect the expulsion of the French, and no resistance to the revolution remained, except from Admiral Verheul, commander of the Texel fleet, who took possession of the fort of the Helder, and declared his resolution of maintaining the authority from which he received his appointment. The Prince of Orange made his entry into Amsterdam on December 1st, and he soon after issued a proclamation in which intimation was given of a *higher relation* towards the Netherlands, in which he was placed in conformity to their desire; and the title which he thenceforth bore, was that of Sovereign Prince of the United Netherlands.

Some further continental events of this memorable year remain to be noticed.

The King of Denmark, who still refused to join the league against France, and regarded with much resentment the agreement between Russia and Sweden for the conveyance of Norway to the latter, declared war against Sweden on the 5th of September. His means, however, were wholly inadequate to sustain such a contest while standing alone in the midst of a hostile confederacy; and when the Crown Prince of Sweden found leisure to march against the Danish frontier, Holstein was soon over-run by his troops. The Prince of Hesse, commander of the Danes, finding himself entirely surrounded, requested an armistice,

which was granted, on the condition that the whole of Holstein and part of Schleswig were to remain in possession of the allies, with liberty to them of effecting the reduction of some remaining fortresses. Such was the humiliated condition of Denmark at the close of the year.

Upon the retreat of Napoleon from Leipsic, a large body of French troops was left in Dresden under the command of Marshal Gouvion St. Cyr, which was augmented by fugitives from Vandamme's defeated army. They were soon reduced to a wretched condition by disease and want; and although their commander made demonstrations of resistance when blockaded by the Russians, he found it necessary on November 12th to surrender himself and his men prisoners of war, to the amount, in officers and privates, of more than 40,000. In the same month the French garrisons in Stettin and its forts also capitulated on the same condition, to the number of between 7 and 8000. Some of the men, who were Dutch, mounted the Orange cockade, and were sent to join their countrymen.

The liberation, or rather the recovery, of the north of Italy was an object which soon occupied the attention of the Austrian Court, and Baron Hiller crossed the Alps in October with an army of 60,000 men, and commenced operations against the French. Various actions also took place in Carniola and Istria, the result of which was the retreat of the French into Italy. Trieste and the whole Dalmatian coast were brought under the Austrian dominion with the assistance of the English fleet.

The Helvetic confederacy, of which Napoleon was the declared protector, seemed disposed in this great mutation of affairs to preserve a neutrality; and the diet of the cantons in November issued a notification to this purpose, and decreed the levy of an army to support it. They were, however, soon taught that a small power in the midst of the contentions of great ones cannot remain neutral at its pleasure. An Austrian army entered Switzerland, with a declaration that its neutrality could

not be permitted by the allied powers, who were resolved to free her from foreign influence, and see her independent before they could recognize her as neutral. At Bern, on the entry of Count Bubna with a body of cavalry, the ancient government of the canton was restored. Geneva was afterwards occupied by the allies; and the Austrians, advancing to Basle and Schaffhausen, crossed the Rhine and proceeded to the French frontier. They also passed that boundary river at other parts, and spread in Alsace and Franche Comté. France was now completely in a state of invasion; and Napoleon displayed his alarm by a decree issued December 26th, announcing the mission, into the military divisions of the empire, of commissioners armed with extraordinary powers for organizing the means of defence.

The unfortunate war between Great Britain and the United States of America in this year was productive of a variety of events, but for the most part on a small scale, and of which only a few of the principal claim to be recorded.

Before the expiration of the last year, a trial of strength between the war and peace parties in America occurred in an election for president and vice-president of the states. The result was the re-election of Mr. Madison for the former office by a majority of 128 to 89, and of Mr. Gerry for the latter by nearly the same majority.

In a report from the committee of foreign relations laid before the House of Representatives on January 29th, the president's refusal to concur in the proposal of an armistice made by Admiral Warren was fully approved, and the ground of quarrel with Great Britain was stated as almost entirely referring to the right claimed by her of impressing seamen on board of American vessels. To this claim they recommended an unceasing resistance, but were desirous of the enactment of such regulations as might prevent the subjects of one country from entering into the service of the other.

Notwithstanding the ill success of the last year's expeditions into Canada, that province was still the

great object of American enterprize. In January General Winchester advanced with more than 1000 men to the attack of Fort Detroit. He was opposed by Colonel Proctor with 500 regulars and militia, and 600 Indians, when about 500 of the Americans with their commander surrendered prisoners, and the greater part of the rest on their retreat were cut off by the Indians. This misfortune was compensated by the capture of York, the capital of Upper Canada, on lake Ontario. General Dearborn arriving by water at the place on April 27th, landed his troops, and commenced an attack on the works defended by General Sheaffe at the head of 700 regulars and militia, and some Indians. At the same time the American flotilla under Commodore Chauncey opened a fire on the British batteries from the harbour. An explosion took place, which obliged General Sheaffe to march out with the regulars, leaving the others to capitulate. Considerable public stores were taken with the town.

The Canadian lakes now became the most active scene of warfare, and a number of spirited actions took place on their coasts and waters. On April 23d Colonel Proctor embarked with a force of regulars, militia, and Indians, to attack a post of Americans at the rapids of the Miami, a river flowing into lake Erie. While engaged in battering their defences, an American reinforcement of 1300 men under the command of Brigadier-General Clay, coming down the river, made an attack upon him, aided by a sally of the garrison. After a severe action they were repulsed, and the greater part were killed or taken. Colonel Proctor was not able, however, to maintain his position.

On May 27th, the Americans in force made a landing at Fort George on the Niagara, and proceeded to an attack of the place. After a gallant defence, it was evacuated by the commander, Colonel Vincent, who retreated to a position near the head of Lake Ontario. The American army in the mean time pushed forwards a large body which rendered them masters of the Niagara frontier. They met, however, with several checks.

in attempting a further advance; and in June, General Dearborn concentrated his forces at Fort George, where he remained in a strongly entrenched camp. On Lake Ontario, the British naval commander, Sir James Yeo, and the American Commodore Chauncey, kept each other in check without any decided superiority on either side. A British expedition to Lake Champlain, was successful in destroying a number of military buildings, and a great quantity of naval and other stores. In the month of September the Americans accomplished the object of gaining naval possession of the lakes, as far as concerned Lake Erie. Their commander on that station, Commodore Percy, on the 10th, brought to action the British, or rather the Canadian squadron, commanded by Captain Barclay, and compelled the whole of it to surrender. The consequence of this disaster was the relinquishment by the British of the Michigan territory, with the exception of Fort Michilimackinack, and the abandonment of the posts in Upper Canada beyond Grand River.

A great effort was made in the autumn by the Americans for the invasion of Canada at different points, which commenced with the advance of Major-General Hampton to the frontier on the Montreal side. Sir G. Prevost repaired to the spot, bringing a reinforcement to Sir R. Sheaffe, commander of the district. Hampton passed the boundary into Lower Canada on October 21st, and proceeded along both banks of the Chateauguay River against the British advanced posts. On the 26th, he was engaged by a much inferior force of British and Canadians, and so effectually checked, that he re-crossed the frontier, and retreated to his former position. The American General Wilkinson, in co-operation with this attempt, embarked with 10,000 men on Lake Ontario, and proceeded in batteaux down the St. Laurence with the intention of reaching Montreal. Sir G. Prevost had, however, placed a corps of observation to watch the movements of the Americans, which, being attacked by them, en-

tirely defeated the assailants' with considerable loss, after which they returned to their own shores. The final result of this combined expedition was that both the Canadian provinces were freed from their invaders, who withdrew in December to winter quarters within their own territories.

A successful attempt by the British army against Fort Niagara was the latest occurrence in these parts. On December 19th, a body of about 500 men under Colonel Murray was landed early in the morning near the fort, which, by an escalade, carried the works with a trifling loss, killing or taking prisoners all the garrison, and making prize of a large quantity of arms and stores. The American General Hull, soon after arriving at the town of Buffalo to check the farther progress of the British, was attacked on the 30th, by General Riall at the head of 1000 regulars and militia, and 100 Indians, and entirely routed. Buffalo and the village of Black-rock were afterwards committed to the flames, and the whole of the American frontier was left naked; Sir G. Prevost, in a proclamation, representing these severities as a measure of retaliation for the destruction practised by the Americans in their invasion of Upper Canada, particularly their conflagration of Newark, a place containing 150 houses.

While these transactions were going on in the northern part of America, a desultory warfare was maintained in the south by the British blockading squadrons, which sent their light vessels up the rivers at the head of Chesapeake Bay, and made occasional attacks on the small towns and repositories of stores on their banks. These were successful, though the objects were of inconsiderable importance. A more important enterprise was undertaken against a post at Hampton in Virginia, defended by a considerable corps of troops. On June 26th, Sir S. Beckwith, who had embarked with the troops under his command on board Admiral Cockburn's light squadron, turned the flank of the Americans unobserved, and after a brisk action, gained

possession of their camp and batteries. In the following month, the islands of Ocrakoke and Portsmouth on the coast of North Carolina were captured by the squadron of Admiral Cockburne.

In the naval combats between the two nations, success began to be more equally divided. The preceding year closed with another loss, though not a disgrace, to the British navy. On December 29th, 1812, the English frigate *Java*, Captain Lambert, of 46 guns, with Lieutenant-General Heslop and his staff on board, bound to the East Indies, gave chase off St. Salvador in Brazil to a strange sail, which proved to be the American frigate *Constitution*, Commodore Bainbridge, of 55 guns. In the action which ensued, the *Java* was reduced to a mere wreck by the superior fire of her antagonist, and was compelled to strike after sustaining a very severe loss, in which was that of her brave captain.

This misfortune was compensated to the British navy by an action in which it recovered its wonted honours. His Majesty's frigate *Shannon*, Captain Broke, stationed off the port of Boston, had been brought to a state of the most perfect discipline by her commander, who assiduously exercised his men in the use of great and small arms. In this state of preparation, Captain Broke, on June 1st, stood close in with Boston light-house by way of a challenge to the United States' frigate *Chesapeake*, a fine ship of 49 guns fully manned. The American accepted the proffered combat, and standing out of the harbour, confidently bore down on his foe. The ships were soon in close contact, when Captain Broke, discerning a favourable opportunity, gave orders for boarding, himself setting the example. The conflict was bloody but short: the American's decks were cleared in two minutes, her colours were hauled down, and the British flag hoisted over them, and she was led away in triumph, in the sight of all her friends, who were expecting her victorious return.

The French navy was now so much reduced, that scarcely any occasion was given during this year to British seamen, of displaying their superiority in the combats of squadrons or single ships against their accustomed foe ; and their spirit of enterprize was chiefly exercised in attacks upon harbours, and batteries on the sea-coast. Several spirited and successful actions of this kind in the Mediterranean and its branches were reported, of which one of the most considerable was the capture of Fiume in the Gulph of Venice. Admiral Freemantle, with a squadron under his command, on July 2d, anchored opposite to this town, which was defended by four strong batteries. On the 3d, the ships weighed to attack the batteries, whilst a detachment of seamen and marines was sent to storm the Mole Head. This party succeeding, dashed into the town, drove before them the garrison with the governor at its head, and with a very small loss, gained complete possession of the place. It was highly to the honour of the victors, that although the town was stormed in every part, not an individual was plundered, and nothing was carried away except the goods afloat and the government stores. Of 90 vessels captured, more than half were restored to their owners.

The French navy in October sustained the loss of two frigates, which, in returning to their ports, were nearly disabled by a hard gale, and in that condition fell in with English ships, to which they were incapable of making any adequate resistance.

Among the foreign incidents of this year may be mentioned a visitation of the plague in the island of Malta, which spread alarm through all the Mediterranean, and excited particular interest in this country on account of the British troops stationed there. They were, however, preserved from the contagion by proper precautions ; and the whole mortality was not great in proportion to the singular populousness of the island.

In the month of July some severe though partial hurricanes were experienced in the West India islands,

The greatest injury was sustained in Dominica and Bermuda. In the latter of these, the town of Nassau, by two successive tempests from opposite quarters on the same day, was nearly ruined, one-third of the houses being levelled with the ground, and all the rest greatly injured, with a vast destruction of property.

The British parliament re-assembled on November 4th, and was opened by the Prince Regent in a speech from the throne. Its topics were chiefly the new alliances against the power of France, and their successes; and the war with America. His Royal Highness declared his readiness to enter into discussions for the adjustment of the differences subsisting between this country and the United States, "Upon principles not inconsistent with the established maxims of public law, and with the maritime rights of the British empire." With respect to the other great contest, he affirmed that "no disposition to require from France sacrifices of any description inconsistent with her honour, or just pretensions as a nation, will ever be on his part, or on that of his Majesty's allies, an obstacle to peace." The addresses on the speech were carried without opposition.

After the treaties and conventions with Russia and Prussia had been laid before parliament, Lord Castlereagh introduced in the House of Commons a measure for augmenting the disposable force of the country, which consisted in allowing a number from the militia regiments, not exceeding three-fourths of the whole, to volunteer into the line on payment of an additional bounty, and to be accompanied by their officers, to whom an encouragement was to be given for volunteering. Leave being granted to bring in a bill upon this plan, it passed through both Houses without opposition; the general impression being, both in and out of parliament, that in the present conjuncture of affairs, every possible exertion should be made to bring the great contest on the continent to a speedy and desirable issue. In the same spirit, a supplementary

loan of 22 millions proposed by the chancellor of the exchequer was agreed to; and various foreign subsidies consequent upon engagements entered into by the ministers, were passed without a dissentient voice. On December 20th parliament broke up with a motion for an adjournment to March 1st, which, after an attempt to shorten the period by an amendment, was carried without a division.

A. D. 1814.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 54 & 55.
 ——— PARLIAMENT 2 & 3.

The Allied Armies enter France. — Napoleon leaves Paris and heads his Troops. — Actions. — Retreat of Napoleon and Advance of the Allies. — He concentrates his Forces and repels Marshal Blucher. — Afterwards marches against Prince Schwartzberg who retires. — Motions of the Crown Prince of Sweden. — Failure of the British at Bergen-op-Zoom. — Advance of Lord Wellington. — Negotiations at Chatillon; broken off. — Farther Actions between the main Armies. — The Allies determine on marching to Paris. — Wellington continues to advance, and Bordeaux declares for the Bourbons. — Battle before Paris. — Its Result, and Capitulation of Paris. — Provisional Government. — Deposition of Buonaparte. — He sends in his Resignation. — His treaty with the Allied Powers. — Battle of Toulouse. — Sortie from Bayonne. — Naval Actions with the French. — Parliament. — Bill respecting Colonial Offices. — Bills to take away Corruption of Blood, and alter the Mode of Execution in High Treason. — Motion relative to the Speaker's Address to the Prince Regent. — Proceedings on the Corn Laws. — Budget. — Bill for preserving Peace in Ireland. — Departure of Louis XVIII. from England; Entrance into Paris. — Treaty between France and the Allied Powers. — Dutch Constitution. — Plan of the Union of all Belgium. — Hamburg restored to Independence. — Hanover erected into a Kingdom. — Treaty between Denmark, Sweden, and Great Britain. — Cession of Norway to Sweden. — Resistance of the Norwegians, and its final Result. — Return of Ferdinand VII. to Spain. — Abolition of the Cortes. — The Pope's Return to Rome. — Revival of the order of Jesuits, and Restoration of other Religious Communities. — King of Sardinia recovers his Italian Territories, with the annexation of Genoa. — Alliance between the King of Naples and Emperor of Austria. — Federal Compact of Switzerland. — Affairs in the United States of America. — Actions in Canada. — Operations against the Southern States. — City of Washington taken. — Expeditions against Alexandria and Baltimore. — Farther Actions in Canada and on the Lakes. — Destruction of the British Flotilla on Lake Champlain, and Retreat of General Prevost. — Naval Actions. — Peace signed at Ghent. — Autumnal Session of Parliament — Debate on continuing the Militia embodied. — Amendment of Irish Peace-preservation Act. — Proceedings of Irish Catholics. — Princess of Wales. — Royal and Imperial Visitors in England.

AT the commencement of this year the attention of all Europe was fixed upon France, which, from having

been accustomed to send out her conquering legions to dictate laws to her neighbours in their capitals, now saw her frontiers passed by powerful armies from those very states which she had compelled to purchase peace by submitting to her rule, or co-operating in her plans. Of all the nations now leagued against her, there was none, England excepted, which had not acted in alliance with her. At this crisis of her fate, he who had plunged her into this abyss of difficulty appeared to have lost his powers of exertion. The habits of despotism had gained so much upon him, that he was incapable of listening to any advice that was not in correspondence with his own plans, and yet he seemed overwhelmed with the business that pressed upon him. He talked much of what was to be done, but did nothing; and when the allies entered France, they found his means of defence no further advanced, than when he had crossed the Rhine on his retreat.

The allied armies passed that river at different places from Coblenz to Basle, and their advance occupied the tract from the Palatinate to Franche Comté. By the middle of January Marshal Blücher had taken possession of Nancy, and the Austrian General Guillaum was at Langres. On the 25th of that month Napoleon left Paris to put himself at the head of his armies; and from this time, being in his proper element, he cannot be accused of want of activity. He advanced to St. Dizier on the Marne, and immediately directed attacks upon the different corps of the allies collected round him. Some of these actions were successful; but an engagement at La Rothière, on February 1st, in which he was present, terminated in his retreat after the loss of 73 pieces of cannon and a considerable number of men. Its consequences were the advance of the allies to Troyes, which was entered by the Prince of Wurtemberg on the 7th, and the evacuation of Chalons sur Marne by Marshal Macdonald. Chalons sur Saone was also captured by the Austrians. This rapid career, which threatened speedy ruin to the French Emperor, stimulated him to fresh exertions; and finding himself

unable to oppose an adequate resistance to the allied armies in every quarter, he determined upon the plan of concentrating his force at particular points, and striking home blows in succession, which might cut off their communications with each other. The Prussian army under Blucher was his first object; and after a variety of actions, that commander was under the necessity of drawing back as far as Chalons on the Marne, with the complete interruption of his communication with the Austrians. In the mean time, however, Winzingerode had carried Soissons by assault, and had moved from thence to Rheims for the purpose of joining Blucher. During these operations, Prince Schwartzenberg with the Austrians had been advancing upon Paris in the direction of the Seine. Sens was taken on February 11th, and a corps had gained possession of Fontainebleau on the 16th. Napoleon now turned his arms on that side, and after some actions, Schwartzenberg was obliged to withdraw his positions on the Seine, and establish his head-quarters at Troyes. This city was evacuated by the allies on the 23d and re-entered with no small triumph by Napoleon. It was however recovered on March 4th by General Wrede, at which time Napoleon was marching against Blucher.

The Crown Prince of Sweden was with his army at Cologne on February 10th, and its corps under Bulow and Winzingerode were pushing forward in the Low-countries, where they had gained possession of several towns. The latter general, as already mentioned, afterwards advanced to Soissons. In Holland, the French garrison of Gorcum capitulated in February. An attempt made by Sir Thomas Graham to carry the strong fortress of Bergen-op-Zoom on March 7th, unfortunately failed with a considerable loss in killed and prisoners. During this time the combined army in the south of France under Lord Wellington was making gradual progress, and by successive actions drove the French across the Gave D'Oleron, upon which, on February 18th, its posts were established. In Germany the allied troops were occupied in the investment of places still held by

French garrisons. Dantzic capitulated in the beginning of the year, its garrison remaining prisoners of war. Wittenberg was soon after carried by storm, and its castle was surrendered by capitulation.

Returning to the principal scene of action, it is proper, before the narrative of military operations is resumed, to take notice of the negotiations for peace which had been carrying on at Chatillon from the time of the entrance of the allied armies into France. The plenipotentiaries of the different powers (among whom Lord Castlereagh was the representative of England) met the French plenipotentiary at that town, when the latter proposed a suspension of arms, with an immediate surrender of the fortresses in the countries which France was to give up. Instead of acceding to this proposal, which was apparently intended to prevent the advance of the allied arms towards Paris, whilst all the force of the country should be mustered to resist them, the ministers of the allies proposed an immediate signature of preliminaries of peace. The temporary successes of the French arms caused their plenipotentiary to depart without answering the proposal of the allies; who afterwards delivered in the plan of such a treaty as they deemed necessary for restoring the balance of power in Europe, and the 10th of March was mutually fixed on for the period of a definite answer. This term being prolonged to the 15th, the French plenipotentiary on that day presented a *contre-projet*, which (say the allies) receding from what the French government itself had formerly proposed, demanded that nations quite foreign to France should remain a part of it, and that France should retain frontiers inconsistent with the principles of equilibrium, and affording the same points of aggression by means of which it had effected so many revolutions. This was accordingly rejected, and the negotiations at Chatillon were declared to be at an end.

Napoleon was left making his second advance against Blucher, whose army effected a junction with the corps of Winzingerode and Bulow at Soissons on March 3d. Blucher being attacked at Craone retreated to Laon.

On the 9th he was there attacked with all his force by Napoleon, who, after a severe action on that and the following day, retreated at all points with the loss of 48 pieces of cannon and between 5 and 6000 prisoners. The intelligence of Blücher's success induced Schwarzenberg again to advance, and on the 21st his army took a position before Arcis-sur-Aube. The French, who were in force at Arcis, were attacked by the Prince of Wurtemberg, and obliged to abandon the place after sustaining great loss. The next point to which both the Austrian and French armies were directed was Vitry, where Napoleon was to be joined by the corps of Ney and Macdonald. He, however, took the road to St. Dizier, with his whole army, his plan being, as discovered by an intercepted letter, to push between the two allied armies, break their communication, and fall upon the rear of the Austrians. The discovery of his intentions produced an immediate determination of the allied generals to unite their forces, and march directly for Paris, leaving Winzingerode and Czernicheff with a large body of cavalry and cannon to harass Napoleon's rear.

The movements of Lord Wellington were in the meantime becoming continually more important to the common cause. His advance through a strong country intersected with rivers, in the face of an active and vigilant foe, was difficult, and every step required an action. On February 25th, the army forced the passage of the Gave de Pau at Orthes; and on the following day it crossed the Adour. The important city of Bourdeaux was occupied by a detachment commanded by Marshal Beresford on March 12th. This event was the result of a counter-revolutionary movement favoured by the mayor and principal inhabitants, who mounted the white cockade, declared for the Bourbons, and claimed the protection of the combined army. The Duke d'Angoulême, nephew to Louis XVI. and husband to his daughter, entered Bourdeaux with the British troops, and was received with general acclamations. Lord Wellington proceeding against Soult, the latter retreated to Tarbes,

from which place he was driven on the 20th, with considerable loss.

The grand allied army in its advance to Paris had its head-quarters at Coulomier on the 27th. On the next day Blucher passed the Marne at Meaux. The alarm now became hot in the capital; and the nominal King Joseph, whom his brother had left as his lieutenant-general, issued a proclamation urging the Parisians to the defence of their city, with the assurance that the Emperor was bringing a victorious army to their succour. On the 29th, the corps of Marmont and Mortier entered Paris, in which there had been previously assembled a body of regular troops, with 30,000 national guards. The allies now arrived in sight of the capital, and were posted with their right towards Montmartre, and their left near the wood of Vincennes. Prince Schwartzberg addressed a proclamation to the people of Paris, in which, acquainting them with the presence of the army of the allies before their city, their object being a sincere and lasting reconciliation with France, he said, "the attempts hitherto made to put an end to so many calamities have been fruitless, because there exists in the very power of the government which oppresses you, an insurmountable obstacle to peace." He further hinted the expectation of the allied powers that the Parisians would declare in favour of a "salutary authority," and alluded to the conduct of Bourdeaux; concluding with an assurance of paying every attention to the preservation and tranquillity of their city.

The fate of the present ruler of France, however, was not to be decided without another conflict. On March 30th, the French army, under the command of Joseph Buonaparte assisted by Marshals Marmont and Mortier, took a position on the heights near Paris in a long line, the centre of which was protected by several redoubts, and more than 150 pieces of cannon were ranged along it. An attack was immediately determined upon by the allies, which was commenced by the two Princes of Wurtemberg, and after an obstinate resistance, the opposite heights were carried. The suc-

cess of the day was for some time retarded by an accident which delayed the advance of Blücher's army; but at length, the positions gained by the allies, and the losses of the French, induced the latter to send a flag of truce to propose a cessation of hostilities, on the condition of their yielding all the ground without the barrier of Paris. The terms were accepted, and in the evening Count Nesselrode, the Russian minister, entered Paris. By the capitulation that followed, Paris was evacuated on the morning of the 31st, by the troops of Marmont and Mortier, carrying with them all their military appurtenances. The national guard and the municipal gendarmerie were entirely separated from the troops of the line; the arsenals and magazines were left in their existing state. On the same day the allied sovereigns entered Paris attended by their guards; the most perfect order being everywhere preserved. The Emperor Alexander then issued a declaration expressing the intentions of himself and his colleagues. It affirmed that they would no more treat with Napoleon Buonaparte nor with any of his family; that they respected the integrity of France as it existed under its legitimate kings, and would perhaps do more for it; and that they would recognize and guarantee the constitution which France should adopt.

On April 1st, the members of the senate assembled pursuant to an extraordinary convocation, the Prince of Benevento (Talleyrand) being their president, and passed a decree for a provisional government of five persons, Talleyrand at the head. On the following day the senate passed another decree, the preamble of which asserted "that in a constitutional monarchy the monarch exists only in virtue of the constitution or social compact." It proceeded to shew in a number of articles in what manner Napoleon Buonaparte had violated his compact with the French people, and as a consequence, pronounced that he had forfeited the throne, and that the hereditary right established in his family was abolished.

While these great events were transacting, Napoleon, learning the danger impending over the capital, moved his army from Troyes by Sens, and arriving at Fromont on the 30th, would have been at Paris on the same day, had it not been in the possession of the allies. He then retired to Fontainebleau, whence, on April 4th, he sent a deputation to the senate, offering to submit to its decision, and that of the French people, and to abdicate in favour of his son. This proposal being rejected, he made an absolute renunciation, for himself and his heirs, of the thrones of France and Italy. The Emperor of Russia afterwards proposed to him, in the name of the allies, that he should choose a place of residence for himself and his family, when he nominated Elba, an island on the coast of Tuscany. On April 11th, a treaty between the allied powers and Buonaparte was signed at Paris, by the articles of which, in return for his renunciation of the sovereignty of France and Italy, he and his spouse Maria Louisa were to retain the Imperial title for life, he was to hold the isle of Elba in full sovereignty whilst he lived, and the Empress was to have in full sovereignty the duchies of Parma, Guastalla, and Placentia, with succession to her son and descendants. Several other very favourable conditions were annexed, which proved either the importance still attached to this extraordinary person by the allied powers, or some strong interest operating in his behalf. It is, however, observable that the British ministry refused its concurrence to this treaty, farther than respected the assignment of Elba to Buonaparte, and of the Italian duchies to Maria Louisa.

Although the battle before Paris was decisive of the war, the sword was not yet sheathed in France. Marshal Soult had hastily retreated from Tarbes to Toulouse, whither he was followed by Lord Wellington, On account of the swollen state of the Garonne, no part of the combined army could be conveyed across the river till April 8th, at which time no information of the events in Paris had been received by either of the commanders. Soult had made the best advantage of

the defences his position in Toulouse afforded, and the 8th and 9th were employed by Lord Wellington in preparations for an attack. This took place on the 10th, and after a sanguinary engagement, the allied troops, were established on three sides of the town. During the night it was evacuated by the French army, and on the next day the white flag was hoisted. Lord Wellington continued his advance, till authentic advice of the transactions at Paris produced a suspension of hostilities.

The same want of timely intelligence was the occasion of unnecessary bloodshed in another part. Early on April 14th a sally in force was made by the garrison of Bayonne upon the position of the allies opposite the citadel, which for a time was successful, Major-General Hay, commandant of the out-posts, being killed, and Major-General Stopford wounded, and the position carried. Lieutenant-General Hope bringing up a reinforcement was also wounded and taken prisoner. At length all the posts were recovered, but not without a serious loss of men.

It may be proper, by way of terminating the narrative of the war with France, to insert in this place a brief notice of the concluding naval occurrences between the two nations, which were somewhat remarkable from the additional losses inflicted on the reduced French marine.

On January 5th Captain Rainier of the *Niger* frigate, in company with the *Tagus*, Captain Pilon, gave chase off the coast of Brazil to a strange sail, which being brought to action on the next day, was soon compelled to submit. She proved to be *La Ceres*, a French frigate of 14 guns, commanded by the Baron de Bougainville.

On the 16th of January, the *Cyane* and the *Venerable*, on the Leeward island station, gave chase to two large French frigates, with one of which the *Venerable* alone came up at the close of day. The chase made a bold attempt to board the *Venerable*, but was herself taken in the action with very considerable loss. She

was the *Alcmene* of 44 guns, commanded by an officer of merit, M. Ducrest de Villeneuve. Her consort, the *Iphigenie*, a frigate of the first class, was pursued during two days by the *Cyane*, and at length was overtaken and captured.

On February 3d Captain Hayes, of the *Majestic*, on his passage from St. Michael to Madeira, descried three ships and a brig, two of which gave chase to him. On their approach he bore down to the headmost, on which she joined the rest, and they all made away under all the sail they could carry. Captain Hayes overtook the sternmost, which, after a running fire, struck her colours. She proved to be the *Terpsichore*, a 44 gun frigate, from the Scheldt.

A severe action took place on February 25th between the *Eurotas*, Captain Phillimore, and the *Clorinde*, a French frigate of 44 guns, the two vessels lying broadside to broadside, during which all the masts of the *Eurotas*, and two of those of her antagonist, were carried away. While preparations were making on the next day by the *Eurotas* to renew the combat, two other English frigates came across the chase, to which the French struck, having lost about 120 men in the action. The loss of the *Eurotas* was 59.

On March 26th the *Hannibal* of 74 guns, Captain Sir M. Seymour, and the *Hebrus* frigate, Captain Palmer, gave chase to two French frigates on the coast of France, one of which, the *Sultan* of 44 guns, was presently captured by the *Hannibal*. The other was pursued by the *Hebrus*, and on the following morning had got into the bay of La Hogue, where she was brought to action. After an obstinate combat attended with considerable loss on both sides, the French ship, *L'Etoile* of 44 guns, became a prize.

Having thus brought to a close the relation of that great contest, the importance of which gave it the precedence over every other transaction of this year, we revert to the accustomed record of British affairs.

Parliament having assembled on March 1st, a message was received by both Houses from the Prince

Regent recommending a farther adjournment to the 21st of the month, which was agreed to without opposition.

On the 22d Mr. Golborn moved in the House of Commons for a bill to amend an act of the 22d of the King, the purpose of which was to prevent the conferring of any office in the colonies upon persons who had not resided during a specified time in the settlement. He observed, that abuses had crept in which rendered its provisions altogether nugatory, and which were especially owing to the power lodged in governors and councils of granting leave of absence to official persons without limitation of time or other restriction. The title of the bill brought in by him was "An Act to prevent the granting in future any patent office to be exercised in any colony or plantation now or at any time hereafter belonging to the crown of Great Britain, for any longer term than during such time as the grantee thereof, or person appointed thereto, shall discharge the duty thereof in person, and behave well therein." After some discussion, and the rejection of proposed amendments tending to extend its provisions, it passed into a law.

Sir Samuel Romilly, who had failed in an attempt in the last year to bring in a bill for taking away corruption of blood in cases of attainder for high treason and felony, made a motion on March 23d for a bill, precisely similar to the former, which underwent an opposition on the same ground of objection to any change in the laws of England. Mr. Yorke at length having carried amendments to except high and petty treason from the exceptions of the bill, it passed into a law. Another bill introduced by the same friend of humanity for altering the shocking mode of punishment enjoined by the laws for the crime of high-treason was also passed, with Mr. Yorke's amendment of adding *beheading* after *hanging*.

A matter of debate in the House of Commons which excited considerable interest arose from the following circumstance. The Speaker of the House, in his ad-

dress to the Prince Regent on presenting the bills at the conclusion of the last session of parliament among other topics, had touched upon the rejection (in which he had a great share), of the bill for the farther relief of the Roman catholics, and had assigned the reasons for it according to his own feelings on the subject. This was taken by some of the friends of the bill as a reflection upon its supporters, and as pronouncing a definitive judgment on the case, which did not belong to the Speaker's office. In consequence, Lord Morpeth had given notice of a motion on the subject to be brought on after the recess of parliament, which, preceded by a call of the House, took place on April 22d. His lordship, after a high compliment to the Speaker on his merited reputation for the general discharge of his duty, having read that part of his speech which related to the catholic bill, moved as a resolution of the House, "That it is contrary to parliamentary usage, and to the spirit of parliamentary proceeding, for the Speaker, unless by special direction of the House, to inform his Majesty, either at the bar of the House of Lords, or elsewhere, of any proposal made to the House by any of its members, either in the way of bill or motion, or to acquaint the throne with any proceedings relative to such proposal, until they shall have been consented to by the House." The subsequent debate turned chiefly on the discretionary power vested in the Speaker on the occasions in question, relative to which various precedents were adduced. With respect to this particular case, complaint was also made of the implication in the Speaker's address, of an intention in the supporters of the catholic bill to introduce changes destructive "of the laws by which the throne, the parliament, and the government of this country, are made fundamentally Protestant;" an intention loudly disclaimed by them. The House finally dividing on the motion, it was negatived by 274 votes against 106. A motion by Mr. Bankes for a resolution of a directly opposite tenour was then carried.

No parliamentary discussion during the present session so much engaged the minds of the public, as that of which the corn trade was the subject. A report on this trade framed by a select Committee of the House of Commons was printed in the last year, in which were considered the two systems on which the corn laws of this kingdom had hitherto been founded; the first, that of discouraging the importation of grain by high duties, while its exportation was encouraged by bounties; the second, the direct reverse of this. The committee recommended a recurrence to the former policy, by fixing very high the regulating price for permitting the importation of corn, and allowing the free exportation till it had nearly reached that standard. The price of grain being at that time unusually high in consequence of two successive scanty harvests, the declared intention of bringing in a bill to parliament upon the principles supported by the committee, excited a great alarm; especially in the manufacturing and commercial districts, of a design to sacrifice the trading to the landed interest, in order to enable the country gentlemen to keep up their greatly increased rents. In consequence, petitions against any change in the corn laws were poured in from the metropolis and a great many parts of the kingdom. The cultivation of corn having of late years been peculiarly extended in Ireland, which now exported largely to England, the members for that part of the kingdom took the lead in this business, and on May 5th Sir Henry Parnell moved a resolution for permitting at all times the exportation of grain from any part of the United Kingdom. This being carried, a second resolution was moved for the imposition of duties on importation, according to a schedule, by which, when wheat was at the home price of 63 shillings per quarter or under, foreign wheat should pay a duty of 24 shillings; when the home price was 86 shillings the duty on foreign wheat should cease; and at all intermediate prices the same ratio should be preserved. This also passed, together with a third, for the im-

portation and warehousing of foreign corn duty free for re-exportation. During the progress of the bills framed upon these resolutions, many warm debates arose, and divisions took place, whilst in the meantime petitions against their principle grew more and more numerous. The ministry, who at first had supported them, became embarrassed, and the majorities in their favour diminished. The final result was, that the bill respecting the exportation of grain passed into a law; but the farther consideration of changes in the corn laws was deferred for six months, by a majority in the House of Commons of 116 to 106.

The budget of the year was laid before the House on June 13th. The whole amount of supplies rose to a sum exceeding 75,600,000*l.*, of which the share of Great Britain was somewhat more than sixty-seven and a half millions. Among the ways and means were two loans of forty and a half millions, and a vote of credit of three millions. The excess of expences above all former calculation could not fail to strike every considerate mind, especially as there could be no hope of their speedy diminution. Of the remaining business of the session, the most important was a bill introduced by Mr. Peel, July 8th, for an additional measure for the preservation of the public peace in Ireland, copied from a bill which passed in 1807. Its present occasion was the existence of outrages in some parts of that country, of which the most savage were perpetrated by a set of banditti called Carders, from their application of wool-cards to the skin and flesh of the objects of their displeasure. The bill was opposed as not required by any proved necessity; but several of the Irish members supported it, and it passed into a law. Its operation was extended to three years. In the debates on this bill some severe remarks were made upon the associations of Orangemen in different parts of Ireland, as keeping up a party spirit, and offering continual provocations to the catholics. It may be here mentioned, that a commencement had been made by certain anti-catholic zealots, of similar societies in England, but that the

general disapprobation with which they were spoken of in parliament had occasioned their suppression.

The session was closed on July 30th by the Prince Regent in person, who delivered a speech, the principal topics of which were the termination of the continental war, and the public events succeeding it, which are to be the subject of the further narrative to which we proceed.

Whilst the late ruler of France was on his departure from that country to his little insular dominion; its Bourbon sovereign, now recognized as Louis XVIII., having left his rural retirement in England, was conducted into London by the Prince Regent with royal honours, and met with a reception from its inhabitants in the highest degree cordial and respectful. On April 24th he embarked at Dover in a royal yacht, convoyed by the Duke of Clarence, and was welcomed at Calais with every demonstration of loyalty and affection. He made a solemn entrance into his capital on May 3d, and if it was not attended with those signs of heart-felt satisfaction that are most gratifying to the feelings of a lawful monarch, it passed in perfect order and decorum. On the preceding day he had published a declaration respecting that highly important subject, the future constitution of France; in which, advertng to the plan proposed by the senate on April 6th, he signified his approbation of its bases, but intimated that many of the articles, bearing the appearance of precipitation, could not in their existing form become the law of the state. As it is not here intended to enter into the copious subject of French domestic politics, the general peace between France and the allied powers of Austria, Russia, Great Britain, and Prussia, signed at Paris on May 30th, is the only remaining event of the year relative to that country which requires to be recorded.

The second article of this treaty assures to France the integrity of its boundaries as they existed on January 1st 1792, with such augmentations of territory as are comprised in a line of demarkation described in the following article on the side of Belgium, Germany,

and Italy, that on the Spanish frontier remaining unaltered. Other articles render free to all persons the navigation of the Rhine, from the point where it first becomes navigable, to the sea, the duties payable on its banks to be hereafter settled upon equitable terms. An increase of territory is to be given to Holland, under the sovereignty of the House of Orange, which sovereignty is in no case to devolve on a Prince wearing a foreign crown. The German states are to be independent, and united by a federal league. Switzerland to continue independent under its own government. Italy, out of the Austrian limits, to be composed of sovereign states. Malta and its dependencies to belong to Great Britain. All the colonies, factories, &c. which were possessed by France at the period above-mentioned, to be restored to her, with the exception of Tobago, St. Lucia, and the Isle of France, and its dependencies. Rodrigue and the Sèchelles, ceded to England, and a part of St. Domingo to revert to Spain. The King of Sweden to renounce to France such right to Guadaloupe as he may have acquired by a treaty with Great Britain. Portugal to restore French Guyana. France to enjoy the same facilities of commerce with British India as the most favoured nations, and in return to agree not to erect any fortifications in the establishments restored to her in that country. Her former right of fishery at Newfoundland to be restored. The naval arsenals and ships of war in the maritime fortresses surrendered by France in the convention of April, to be divided between her and the country in which such fortresses are situated. Antwerp for the future to be only a commercial port. By another article, the powers engaged in the late war were bound to send plenipotentiaries to a congress to be holden at Vienna for completing the dispositions of the present treaty. In the additional articles of the treaty between France and Great Britain, the King of France engages to join his efforts with those of the British Court for procuring the total abolition of the slave trade by the christian powers, and that in all

events it is to take place in France at the end of five years. Further, England, in pure generosity, consents after the private claims of her subjects on France are satisfied, to remit the whole excess in her favour for the maintenance of prisoners of war. Such, in its main points, was this important treaty, by which an honourable proof was given of the moderation of the allies and their adherence to the declaration made on their entering the French territories. They did not delay the complete evacuation of France by their troops, and in a short time that country was left entirely master of its own affairs.

In other parts of Europe events occurred which will render this year memorable in history.

In Holland, after the public independence had been secured, the first care of the prince sovereign was to offer a new constitution to the nation. The code drawn up under his inspection was submitted to the consideration of 600 persons chosen by the inhabitants of the provinces as their representatives. The greater part of these, being assembled at Amsterdam on March 28th, gave their votes on the constitution, when it was accepted by a majority of 458 to 25. Its general plan was that of a mixed government for the whole of the Dutch community, in which the legislative power was divided, and the executive was committed entire to the sovereign, with due provision for the security of personal liberty and property. It appears to have been received without the least opposition. On May 2d, the States-general of the United Provinces assembled at the Hague, and took the oaths prescribed by the constitution. At subsequent meetings the greatest harmony prevailed between the States and the sovereign, and hopes were given of a more speedy recovery from the losses and difficulties than might have been expected.

The Austrian or Catholic Netherlands, after their liberation from the French troops, were placed under the military government of the Austrian General De Vincent. The assignment of their future condition

was obviously a point involved in considerable embarrassment. To preserve them from the French dominion had been a capital object in the politics of more than a century past; and since their conquest by that power, new bonds had been formed, which would facilitate their return to the same connection, whenever France should be in circumstances to renew her schemes of aggrandisement. The provinces were not able, if willing, to secure their own independence; and the House of Austria, so long their masters, was disinclined to undertake again the defence of a distant dominion, more burdensome than profitable. The allied powers therefore finally determined upon the plan of forming a single state of all Belgium or the Netherlands, under the sovereignty of the House of Orange, in the hope that it might be adequate in strength to its own defence, at least under the guaranty and protection of the neighbouring powers. Hints of this purpose had already been thrown out, when, on July 30th, the Prince of Orange came to Brussels, and had a long conference with the governor-general, Baron De Vincent. On the next day the baron issued a proclamation, announcing that he was to resign his government to the Sovereign Prince of the Netherlands; and on the same day the Prince published an address to the Belgians, informing them that a new destination of their provinces was a part of the political system to be settled at the congress of the allied powers, and that in the interim he was called to the government of the country. Belgium was now evacuated by the Russian and Prussian troops, whose places were supplied by English and Germans in British pay. Various measures were then taken for attaching the Belgians to the new order of things, and a body of native troops was raised to co-operate in the defence of the country. Before the close of the year, all its strong fortresses were occupied by garrisons of British, Hanoverians, Dutch, and Belgians.

In August an arrangement was concluded between the Prince Regent of England, and the Sovereign of

the Netherlands, by which Great Britain retained the Cape of Good Hope, Demarara, Essequibo, and Berbice, and resigned all its other conquests from the Dutch.

The city of Hamburg, after its long and severe sufferings under the tyrannical administration of Davoust, was gratified on May 26th, with the restoration of its former independence and municipal government under the patronage of the allied powers.

The electorate of Hanover, raised by certain annexations to the rank of one of the secondary German states, in this year acquired the title of a kingdom, under the rule of his Britannic Majesty. The cause assigned for this change in a declaration by the Prince Regent, was the invitation of several of the powers concurring in the treaty of Paris, who thought, that as the other ancient electors, and the House of Wurtemberg, had erected their states into kingdoms, it would facilitate the future arrangements of Germany, if the Elector of Hanover were to do the like. On December 15th, a general diet of the Hanoverian States assembled, which was opened by the Duke of Cambridge, and a constitution was agreed upon, on the plan of a representative government.

The condition to which Denmark had been reduced at the close of the last year, rendered it manifest that she had no other part to take than that of submitting to such terms of peace as Sweden and the other allies should please to impose upon her. Accordingly, on January 14th, a treaty was concluded at Kiel between the sovereigns of Denmark, Sweden, and Great Britain, by which the former engaged to take part in the confederacy against France, and to join the arms of the allies with 10,000 men on the consideration of a subsidy of 400,000*l.* from England, which power engaged to restore all her conquests upon Denmark, with the exception of Heligoland. The most important article of the treaty, however, was the perpetual cession by Denmark to Sweden of the whole kingdom of Norway, in compensation for which the latter ceded

Pomerania and the Isle of Rugen to the Danes. It was not without great reluctance that the King of Denmark parted with one of his crowns, and a country so long annexed to the Danish dominion; but his situation permitted no alternative. The Norwegians, however, a brave and free-spirited people, could not be reconciled to a transfer for which their consent was never asked, and which militated against all their national and political prejudices. Their governor at this time was Christian Frederic, Duke of Schleswig-Holstein, and hereditary Prince of Denmark, whose active and enterprising character led him to favour the public resolution to assert the independence of Norway. He visited Drontheim and other parts of the country, where he was received with enthusiasm, and returning to Christiania, took an oath as Regent of Norway, and assumed the reins of government, with the assistance of a council of state. A declaration was made of Norwegian independence, and of the existence of peace with all nations except such as should act hostilely against the country. Sanguine hopes were entertained of the friendship of England, and an envoy was deputed to proceed to London, and endeavour to procure the countenance of the British government; but he was informed by the minister, that the engagements of this country would not admit of its taking any measures in favour of the independence of Norway; and it was soon after announced by command of the Prince Regent, that the necessary means had been adopted for blockading the ports of Norway by a British naval force. The King of Denmark, apprehending lest the resistance of the Norwegians to an union with Sweden might be imputed to his secret suggestions, addressed a letter to them in which he explicitly disavowed their cause, and expressed his displeasure at the proceedings of Prince Christian. The King of Sweden endeavoured to conciliate them by the promise of permitting the nation to establish a constitution on the basis of representation, with the right of taxing themselves.

Different parties now prevailed in Norway, and many looked with dread on a contest to which the national strength was so unequal. The majority, however, giving way to patriotic feelings, rather than to prudential considerations, determined to have recourse to arms; and as a decisive step, the Norwegian crown was placed on the head of Prince Christian. The Crown-Prince of Sweden on July 27th, began his march for the frontier of Norway with a veteran army to compel submission, and after some petty actions, the Norwegian army was on the point of being surrounded by a much superior force. Further resistance being manifestly unavailing, Prince Christian resigned his authority, and on August 14th a convention was signed at Moss between the Crown-Prince of Sweden and the Norwegian government, by which the King of Sweden promised to accept the constitution framed by the diet of Norway, and agreed to a general amnesty. A cessation of hostilities between the two armies was at the same time declared. At a general diet of the nation, on October 20th, a great majority voted for the union of Norway with Sweden on condition of the preservation of its constitution. Thus, with a small expence of bloodshed, the people of Norway, by an assertion of national independence, obtained a free government which they did not before possess, and maintained, as far as circumstances would permit, their ancient character for manly spirit.

Very different was the result of another political change effected by the great events of the present year. When Napoleon became sensible that it would not be in his power to retain his hold upon Spain, he wrought upon the flexible mind of his captive Ferdinand to enter into a treaty for his restoration, on the condition of his procuring the evacuation of Spain by the English, with other articles favourable to the French ruler. This treaty was rejected by the Cortes as of no validity whilst the King remained under constraint, and had not yet taken the oath prescribed by the constitution. The progress of the allies in France afterwards produced the capitulation of most of the French garrisons remaining

in Spain, and at length the state of affairs would no longer permit the detention of Ferdinand. On March 24th, he arrived at Gerona, whence he sent a letter to the regency, containing a general protestation of his wishes to do every thing that might conduce to the welfare of his subjects. He thence proceeded to Saragossa, and on April 11th departed for Valencia, accompanied by the infant Don Carlos.

Although the King's return was hailed by the general voice of the Spanish nation, yet it was very differently regarded by the two opposite parties which now began openly to declare themselves. The Cortes and its supporters displayed great anxiety for Ferdinand's acceptance of that constitution which had been their work, and was framed upon the principles of free and enlightened governments. On the other hand, those who had always secretly opposed these principles, now avowed themselves royalists of the old stamp, and prepared to assist the crown in the assertion of all the prerogatives of absolute power. The King's long continuance at Valencia, where he was joined by most of the grandees and many prelates, became more and more suspected to the Cortes, who in vain urged his appearance at the capital to take the reins of government according to the constitution. All doubt was at length terminated by a royal declaration issued at Valencia on May 4th, in which Ferdinand declared his intention not only not to swear or accede to the constitution or to any decree of the Cortes derogating from his prerogatives as sovereign, but to pronounce that constitution and those decrees null and of no effect. He further commanded that the Cortes should immediately cease its sittings, and deliver up all its acts and documents, and denounced the penalties of high treason against all who should obstruct the execution of these orders. It now appeared how little the spirit which animated the Cortes had been partaken by the nation at large. The decree for dissolving that body was received with enthusiasm by the people of Madrid, and not the smallest obstacle was made to carrying it into effect; and on the night of the 10th, a

great number of persons were arrested, whose names comprized almost all those who had rendered themselves conspicuous during the reign of the Cortes by writings or speeches favourable to public liberty, or breathing a liberal spirit. Ferdinand entered Madrid on May 14th, and was received with every demonstration of loyalty. A series of measures was begun for the restoration of every institution, civil and ecclesiastical, to its former state. The court of inquisition was re-established, though it is said, in a milder and more equitable form; arrests and prosecutions were multiplied; and, not to enter into the disgusting detail of arbitrary and bigoted proceedings, continued to the present moment, it suffices to observe, that Spain has been effectually thrown back to that degraded state among nations from which she seemed about to emerge.

Nowhere was the spirit of reverting to former principles and systems of policy more conspicuous than under the dominion of the papacy. Pius VII. in his proclamation from Cezena on May 5th, assumed the ancient title of "God's Vicar on Earth," and spoke of his temporal sovereignty as essentially connected with his spiritual supremacy. A proclamation at Rome declared the restoration of the former pontifical, civil, and criminal code; and the pope, on resuming his functions in person at his capital, reserved to himself all proceedings against those who had taken part in the late usurpation, and appointed a commission for making a report on the property termed national which had been ceded to companies that were creditors of the French government. The spirit of the present pontificate was more peculiarly displayed by the revival of the order of Jesuits; the suppression of which, in 1773, effected by the concurring efforts of the Bourbon sovereigns, was the result of a jealousy of its power, and detestation of its principles, which then seemed almost universal in the catholic world. On August 7th, his Holiness seated in state, caused a bull to be read for the re-establishment of the company of Jesus, which,

as still subsisting in Russia and Sicily, he had several years before authorized to follow the rule of its order, and to which he now extended all the same powers in all other places; he conferred upon them all the privileges they formerly possessed, took them and their property under the immediate protection of the Holy See, and abrogated all constitutions and ordinances to the contrary. An act was afterwards read concerning the restitution of the patrimony of the Jesuits in funds still existing in the ecclesiastical states, and making provisional compensation for alienated property. The zeal of the pope in favour of religious orders was not confined to the Jesuits, but extended to all other monastic communities; and on August 15th, he promulgated an edict in which, after lamenting the almost total annihilation of those societies as one of the greatest calamities of the time, he mentioned the appointment of a committee to consider of the re-establishment of the regular orders, by whose advice all the disposable convents in Rome were to be given them, that "the greatest possible number of monks might be assembled." The renovation of all the festivals observed at Rome before its incorporation with the French empire, and the prohibition, under the severest penalties, of all secret assemblies, especially those of the Free-masons, were farther indications of the prevalent spirit in this quarter.

Among the restitutions determined by the allied powers previously to the grand congress, was that of their former Italian territories to the sovereigns of Sardinia. This measure was declared by the Austrian general, Count Bubna, at Turin, into which capital the King of Sardinia entered on May 20th, and took possession of Savoy and Piedmont. Genoa was at this time in the occupation of the English troops under Lord W. Bentinck, who issued a proclamation implying the purpose of the allied powers to restore to that city its independence and antient form of government; and a provisional administration upon that principle was accordingly appointed. The city continued to be held

by the English till the month of December, when an aide-de-camp of the King of Sardinia arrived with the information, that it had been determined by the plenipotentiaries at the congress, that Genoa and its territory should be annexed to the Sardinian territories; and an order was at the same time delivered to the English commander for resigning the government to the person commissioned by the King of Sardinia to receive it. Lord Castlereagh in his account of this matter to Colonel Dalrymple, expressed the regret of himself and his brother ministers that "they had not been able to preserve the separate existence of Genoa without the risk of weakening the system adopted for Italy." To this state-necessity the ancient republic of Genoa was therefore obliged to submit; as was that of its old rival Venice, to the political arrangement which finally annexed it to the dominions of the Austrian empire.

Of the sovereigns by right of French conquest, Joachim (Murat) King of Naples was the only one who held his acquisitions undisturbed. He relied upon his sword, and the attachment of his subjects, and even ventured to extend his dominions by usurpations on the territory of the church. Having acted in co-operation with the Austrians against the viceroy of Italy before the termination of the war, he had formed a treaty of alliance with that power; and confiding in the assurances of friendship which he received from the court of Vienna, he appeared wholly occupied at the close of the year with schemes of aggrandizement.

In Switzerland, a federal compact of the nineteen cantons was published at the beginning of July. Its principle being an equality of rights among all the communities composing the Helvetic body, discontents arose in some of those which had possessed *subjects*, of which the canton of Bern was the head, and some months passed during which the country was far from being in a tranquil state. At length the ministers of the allied powers interposed; and it was intimated that if the disputes were not terminated before the meeting of the congress, the final settlement would be taken out of the

hands of the Swiss themselves. This occasioned a re-assembling of the general diet in September, which passed a decree that the treaty of alliance between the nineteen cantons, of which a modified plan was subjoined, should be signed as a true federal convention. The execution of the act accordingly took place, and the principle "That there are no longer any subjects in Switzerland" was recognized. Geneva, restored to its independence, with an accession of territory, and a new republican constitution, was aggregated to the Helvetic confederacy.

The war between Great Britain and the United States of America was in this year carried on with an increase of vigour and force which denoted a serious intention of bringing it to a speedy conclusion. Indeed, that intention was first displayed by measures towards a pacific negotiation. The president on January 7th communicated to congress, copies of letters between Lord Castlereagh, and Mr. Monroe, in which the former proposed the appointment of plenipotentiaries to treat on terms of peace either at London or Gottenburg; which proposal was accepted by the president, who made choice of Gottenburg as the place. Such a step was rendered the more expedient to the American government by the open opposition to the war manifested in the northern states, of which an example was given in a very forcible speech delivered by Governor Strong before the legislature of Massachusetts. That the discontents occasioned by the restrictions on commerce and their effects on the revenue of America, had made a serious impression, appeared from an act passed by the congress, in consequence of a message from the president, for the repeal of the embargo and non-importation acts. The expectations of a consequent revival of trade were, however, in great measure frustrated by the extension of the British blockade along the whole coast of the United States, announced in April by Admiral Cochrane.

In the early part of February the American General Wilkinson abandoned his position on the frontier of Lower Canada, and moved his head-quarters to Burlington

and Plattsburg, after partially destroying block-houses and barracks erected at a great expence, the destruction of which, with a quantity of stores, was completed by a pursuing British detachment. Wilkinson afterwards made an attack on a British post commanded by Major Hancock, but was repulsed with considerable loss.

A successful expedition under General Drummond and Sir James Yeo against the American Fort Oswego on lake Ontario, in the beginning of May, was chiefly serviceable by retarding the equipment of the enemy's armament on that lake. An attempt for a similar purpose under Captain Popham off Sackett's harbour was defeated with loss.

On July 3d a large American force under Major-General Brown crossed the Niagara river and obliged the garrison of Fort Erie to surrender prisoners of war. They then proceeded towards the British lines of Chippawa, their attack on which was anticipated by a sortie of General Riall, with about 1500 regulars, besides militia and Indians. A warm action ensued, which terminated in the retreat of the British with the loss of about one-third of their number. General Riall then withdrew to a position near Fort Niagara, and the Americans took post at Chippawa. The British troops in Canada were now augmented by the arrival of reinforcements from Europe; and on July 25th General Drummond proceeded to join General Riall, when he found his advanced guard retreating from the Americans, who were pushing on in great force. He immediately drew up in line of battle; and though the Americans, gained a temporary advantage, during which General Riall was wounded and taken prisoner, they were finally repulsed with great loss, and obliged to retreat precipitately beyond the Chippawa. On the following day they abandoned their camp, and continued their retreat in great disorder to Fort Erie.

In July, an expedition was sent from Halifax to Passamaquoddy bay, near the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, the troops of which landing on Moose Island

obliged the American garrison to surrender prisoners of war, and the island, with two others, were reduced to submission to the British government.

The hostile operations on the coasts of the southern American states had hitherto been rather of a harrassing and predatory kind, than directed to any important purpose; but it was now resolved to strike a blow in this quarter which might exert an influence upon the fate of the war. A large naval force under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane, having on board a strong body of troops commanded by Major-General Robert Ross, was in the Chesapeake in the beginning of August, waiting for the arrival of Rear-Admiral Malcolm with an expedition from Bermuda. On their junction, the admiral was informed by Rear-Admiral Cockburne, that the American Commodore Barney, with the Baltimore flotilla, had taken shelter at the head of the Patuxent. Of this circumstance advantage was taken for ascending the river, with the declared purpose of an attack upon Barney, while the real object was the American capital, Washington, not far distant from a port on the Patuxent. On August 19th and 20th the army being landed at that place, General Ross began his march to Washington, the force of the Americans for its protection being ascertained to be such as would justify an attempt to take it by a coup de main. Arriving on the 24th within five miles of the capital, he found the Americans to the number of 8 or 9000 strongly posted to dispute his advance. An attack was immediately directed on them, which was made with so much impetuosity, that they were in a short time entirely dispersed, and the British army reached Washington in that evening. No time was lost in beginning the work of destruction which was the main purpose of the expedition. The public buildings committed to the flames were the capitol, including the senate house and house of representatives, the president's palace, the arsenal, the dock yard, treasury, war office, rope walk, and the great bridge across the Potowmac. A frigate ready to be launched, and a sloop of war, were

consumed in the dock-yard. Private property was respected, and strict discipline was observed among the troops. On the following night a retreat was commenced, and the army, having met with no molestation on its return, was re-embarked on the 30th.

Connected with this enterprize was the destruction of Fort Washington on the Potowmac below the city. This was effected on the 27th, by Captain Gordon of the Seahorse accompanied by other vessels; and by its fall the town of Alexandria, on the same river, was left without protection. Captain Gordon then advanced to Alexandria, and placed his ships so as to force compliance with any terms he chose to propose. The conditions at length agreed on were, that the town should be spared, with the exception of its public works, and the inhabitants be unmolested, on giving up all naval and ordnance stores, public and private, all the shipping and their furniture, and merchandize of every description. Twenty-one of the vessels were fitted for sea and loaded on the 21st, when Captain Gordon, being informed that preparations were making to oppose his return, quitted Alexandria without waiting to destroy the stores which he could not carry away, and brought back all his squadron and prizes in safety to the Chesapeake.

On September 8th the American president issued a proclamation in which he spoke of the devastation at Washington as a measure of extreme and barbarous severity; and mentioned that the British naval commander on the station had avowed his purpose of destroying and laying waste such towns and districts on the coast as should be found assailable, under the pretext of retaliation for the ravages committed in Upper Canada, though none such occurred but what had been shown to be unauthorized. He then called upon all officers to be alert and vigilant in providing the means of defence.

Admiral Cochrane and General Ross next concerted the plan of an attempt against the important city of Baltimore, one of the most flourishing ports in America,

situated on the Patapsco river. On September 12th the troops were disembarked about 13 miles from the town, whence they advanced along a peninsula between two rivers. As the vanguard was engaged with the enemy's riflemen covered by woods, General Ross received a mortal wound in the breast. Sending for Colonel Brooke, the second in command, he gave him some instructions, recommended his young children to the protection of his country, and exclaiming "My dear wife!" expired. Few men ever fell in battle more generally beloved in their private character, or admired in their professional capacity. The van now pressed on, driving the enemy's light troops before them, till they arrived within five miles of Baltimore. A corps of 6000 men was there despatched posted behind a palisade across the road. They were immediately attacked and dispersed with great loss, and the army halted for the night. On the next day they advanced, and took a position a mile and a half from Baltimore. The hills surrounding the town were found occupied by a chain of palisaded redoubts and other works, defended, according to information, by 15,000 men. An attack was however planned by the British commander, when a message arrived from the admiral acquainting him that the harbour was closed in such a manner by sunken vessels defended by batteries, that it was impossible to bring up his ships to co-operate, as had been intended. It was therefore the opinion of both commanders that the chance of success in further operations was not adequate to the hazard; and after the army in retreating had halted a time to give the Americans an opportunity of following, which they declined doing, it was re-embarked. The principal loss in this expedition was that of the lamented commander.

In the meantime military operations were carrying on with various success among the Canadian lakes, and on the northern border of the American territory. An attempt by General Drummond against Fort Erie in August failed chiefly in consequence of a destructive explosion in assaulting the works, and the result was a

serious loss. An expedition up the Penobscot river in September, for the purpose of bringing that part of the province of Maine under the British dominion, was attended with complete success under the conduct of Admiral Griffith and General Sir G. Sherbrooke, and a provisional government was established for the district.

The plan of carrying on the war with additional vigour on the part of the British being adopted for the north as well as the south, Sir G. Prevost with a force of 14 or 15,000 men entered the state of New York on September 1st and marched to Champlain, near the lake of that name. His first attempt was directed against Plattsburgh, a fortified place on the lake, with a garrison of about 1500 men. An attack upon it was planned in co-operation with the British naval force on the lake, commanded by Captain Downie. On the 11th this flotilla appeared before Plattsburgh, where it was encountered by a nearly equal American force under Commodore McDonough. A desperate engagement ensued, which terminated in the capture of the whole British armament. In consequence of this defeat Sir G. Prevost found it necessary to abandon his enterprise, and he began his retreat on the next morning, leaving his sick and wounded to the humanity of the enemy. Great losses of various kinds were incurred in the return of the British to their lines, and all idea of penetrating into the territories of the United States on that side was relinquished.

On September 17th, the Americans in Fort Erie, joined by volunteers from the militia, made an attack in force upon the entrenched position of General De Watteville which, after a temporary success, was finally repulsed, with considerable loss to both parties. The Americans afterwards evacuated Fort Erie, having first demolished all the works, and retreated to their own shores.

The actions at sea between the two nations in this year were few, the superiority on that element being now completely restored to the British flag. The only

memorable occurrence was the capture of the American frigate *Essex*, Captain Porter, which had been long cruising on the coasts of South America, and had taken many English south-whalers, by the *Phœbe* frigate, Captain Hillyar, in company with a sloop of war. The action took place on March 28th in Valparaiso Bay; and the *Essex* did not yield in the unequal combat till she had suffered so much as to render further resistance unavailing.

The negotiations for peace which had been removed from Gottenburg to Ghent, commenced in August, and in October an account of the proceedings was laid by the American president before the congress. From this it appeared that the British government had advanced certain demands respecting the integrity of the Indian territory, the military possession of the lakes, and the settlement of the boundaries, which the American plenipotentiaries did not hesitate absolutely to reject. The congress almost unanimously confirmed this rejection; and measures were determined on for defensive preparations on the supposition of a continuance of the war, adequate to the emergency. At the same time the impossibility of negotiating loans in the present state of public credit, occasioned the adoption of a system of taxation which could not fail of greatly adding to the unpopularity of the war. But happily its inutility to both nations was now become sufficiently apparent; and the restoration of peace in Europe had removed most of the causes of difference. The commissioners at Ghent therefore came to an agreement before the year had expired; and on December 24th, a treaty of peace and amity between Great Britain and the United States was signed, which afterwards received a ratification from both governments. The articles of this treaty chiefly related to the disputes respecting boundaries, for the determination of which it was agreed that commissioners should reciprocally be appointed. Each nation engaged to put an end to all hostilities that might be subsisting between them and the Indian tribes, and to restore to them all the possessions and privileges which were be-

longing to them previously to such hostilities. Both parties likewise covenanted to continue their efforts for the entire abolition of the slave trade. No notice whatever was taken of the circumstances which had occasioned the war.

Having brought to a conclusion the foreign transactions of the year, particularly as connected with the interests of Great Britain, it remains to complete the narrative of domestic occurrences.

The autumnal session of parliament was opened on November 8th by a speech from the Prince Regent in person. Its leading topic was the war with America, which was spoken of in no conciliatory terms, though assurances were given of a sincere desire of bringing it to a termination upon just and honourable conditions. The Commons were informed of the flourishing state of the public revenue and commerce, but regret was expressed for the necessity of a large expenditure in the ensuing year. The usual addresses on the speech were carried in each house without a division.

Of the matters in debate before the parliamentary recess, the most important in a constitutional view related to the continuation of certain militia regiments in service without disembodiment. Earl Fitzwilliam brought the subject before the House of Lords on November 11th, and affirmed that there were four cases specifically stated in which the militia might be called out; namely, actual invasion; imminent danger thereof; insurrection; rebellion; none of which now existed; and he contended that the ballotted men were therefore legally entitled to return to their homes. Lord Sidmouth in reply said that it was always understood that the country's being at war was a sufficient exigence for continuing the services of the militia as long as the crown should judge it to be of public advantage. The same topic was afterwards discussed more at large in the House of Commons, where Sir S. Romilly, after a variety of observations on the intent and purpose of the militia laws, moved a resolution, which was, in substance, That as peace had been concluded for more

than six months, and the country enjoyed internal tranquillity, the still keeping part of the militia embodied was obviously contrary to the intent and spirit of the 42d of the King, and a violation of the principles of the constitution. He was answered by the solicitor-general, whose argument was, that the militia having been legally embodied, it was legal to keep them so. This assertion was strongly controverted on the other side; and a division at length taking place, the motion of Sir S. Romilly was rejected by 97 votes against 32.

The only parliamentary measure of importance in this short period was a bill brought in by Mr. Pecke for amending the Irish peace-preservation act; which, though it produced some severe animadversions, passed into a law without opposition. The necessity for additional powers conferred on the magistracy was occasioned by that spirit of outrage and lawless violence, which, prevailing in different degrees throughout the whole year in parts of that country, resisted all the ordinary methods employed for its suppression. Of its causes, and the fitness of the remedies applied, very different ideas were given according to party or personal prepossessions; but the serious evils resulting from it were but too apparent.

The proceedings of the Irish catholics in this year were not calculated to promote union among themselves, or to advance their cause with others. In May a letter was made public to the Right Reverend Dr. Poynter from Monsieur Quarantotti, president of the sacred missions at Rome, communicating his opinion, and that of a council of learned prelates and theologians, relative to the proposed bill for catholic emancipation. Their determination was, that the propositions should be gratefully accepted, only desiring an explanation of the article respecting intercourse with the supreme pontiff. At a meeting of the catholic board Mr. O'Connell made a speech expressing great indignation at the interference of the "slaves at Rome" in the Irish affairs, and objected to the bill, on the ground of the patronage it

would confer on the ministers. The catholic priests at Dublin, also, at a convocation held for taking into consideration the rescript of Quarantotti, declared it non-obligatory on the catholic church in Ireland, and passed resolutions against granting to any non-catholic government a power, direct or indirect, with regard to the appointment of catholic bishops. The clergy of several provincial dioceses also resolved against the rescript; and finally the catholic bishops, in a meeting at Maynooth, made a declaration against it, and determined upon a communication with the Holy See on the subject. At an aggregate catholic meeting Mr. O'Connel procured a resolution to pass absolutely declaring against the right of any foreign power to exercise dominion or controul over political concerns of the Irish catholics.

The proceedings of the catholic board had been so intemperate, that government at length resolved upon its suppression; and on June 3d, the lord-lieutenant, with the advice of his privy council, issued a proclamation declaring the board contrary to law, and giving notice that if it should renew its meetings, the members would be proceeded against legally. The aggregate meeting, on the other hand, denied its illegality, and rested its lawfulness on the right of petitioning existing in his Majesty's subjects. In December a meeting of the catholic committee was held at the house of Lord Fingal, at which considerable differences of opinion prevailed, but at length it was determined that the next aggregate meeting should confine itself to the business of petition.

The situation of the Princess of Wales became again, in this year, a subject of public discussion, in consequence of a declaration from the Prince Regent to the Queen, to whom the Princess had applied relative to an intention of appearing at her drawing-room, that "it was his fixed and unalterable determination not to meet the Princess of Wales upon any occasion, either public or private." The Princess, regarding this declaration as of state importance, communicated all the correspondence which passed to both Houses of parliament;

and in the House of Commons, motions were made for taking the correspondence into consideration. They were, however, negatived on the ground that it was a matter in which it was not the province of that House to interfere. A motion being afterwards made for an augmentation of the allowance to her Royal Highness, it was readily acceded to by the ministers, who passed an addition, raising it to 50,000*l.* which at her own request was afterwards limited to 35,000*l.* The Princess then asked, and obtained, permission for making a tour to the continent.

A general expectation prevailed that the intention would be declared of a matrimonial union between the Princess Charlotte of Wales and the hereditary Prince of Orange, of which his father had given intimation in an address to the people of the United Provinces; but some cause, of which the public has not been apprized, occasioned the purpose to be relinquished.

This year was rendered memorable by a concourse of illustrious visitors to the English capital, in number and rank surpassing any modern example; at the head of whom were the Emperor of Russia and his sister, and the King of Prussia with his sons. The splendour of their reception, and the public festivities consequent upon their presence, and upon the general peace, will furnish abundant matter for the future domestic chronicles of the time.

A. D. 1815.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 55 & 56.
 ——— PARLIAMENT 3 & 4.

Affairs of France : Discontents with the Bourbon Government. — Buonaparte at Elba. — His Expedition to France. — Received at Grenoble and Lyons. — Joined by Ney. — Enters Paris. — Declaration and new Treaty of the Allied Powers. — Parties at Paris. — Attempts of the Duke of Angoulême. — Royalists in Britany and La Vendée. — Buonaparte's additional Act to the Constitution. — Champ de Mai. — British and Prussian Armies in Belgium. — Buonaparte joins his Army. — Attacks the Prussians. — Actions of four Days ending with the Battle of Waterloo. — Advance of the Allies to Paris. — Military Convention, and Possession taken of the Capital. — Buonaparte withdraws to Rochelle : received on board the Bellerophon : brought to Torbay, and thence shipped for St. Helena. — Proceedings of Murat. — His Advance against the Austrians, Retreat, final Attempt to recover his Crown, and Execution. — Union of the Seventeen Provinces completed, and the Prince of Orange proclaimed King. — Constitution. — Belgian Prelates. — Unsuccessful Attempt of the British against New Orleans. — Reduction of Fort Mobile. — Capture of the President Frigate. — Parliamentary Transactions. — Corn Bill. — Trial by Jury in Civil Causes introduced into Scotland. — Regent's Message respecting Buonaparte. — Subsidies to the Allies. — The Budget. — Marriage of the Duke of Cumberland. — Parliament prorogued. — War in Nepal. — Revolution in Ceylon. — Occurrences in Martinico and Guadaloupe. — France : Resumption of the Crown by Louis XVIII. — Final Treaty between France and it's Allies. — Progress in the Settlement of Europe. — Indemnities to Prussia. — Emperor of Russia declared King of Poland. — Confederation of Germany. — Conclusion.

IT might have been expected that the great events of the last year would have finally terminated the long contest between France and the rest of Europe; and that the re-possession of its throne by the House

of Bourbon, under circumstances which left that country no longer the object of reasonable apprehension and alarm to its neighbours, would have restored that general tranquillity so necessary for recovery from deep and widely diffused calamities. This apparent era of European pacification coinciding also with the conclusion of the war between Great Britain and the United States of America, it was thought that no period more auspicious could be chosen for winding up the annals of a reign, which an unhappy incident had already, in effect, brought to a close. But this has proved a fallacious presumption; and another year has been added, of bloodshed, and changes "perplexing monarchs," which demands its narrative before the design of the present work can obtain a proper completion. The extraordinary character of its events, and their peculiar importance with relation to this country, may compensate the protracted labour of the writer and reader.

Although Louis XVIII. had met with no opposition in establishing his hereditary claim to the crown of France, after the resignation and departure of Buonaparte; and the nation had received a constitution, the bases of which were calculated to satisfy the wishes of the friends of moderate and practicable freedom; yet political differences appeared towards the close of the year which indicated the existence of considerable discontent and suspicion among large classes of the community. Some trying questions had been agitated in the legislative chambers, particularly those relative to emigrant property, and the censorship of the press, which, though carried in them by decisive majorities in favour of the court, were determined upon other principles in the private societies of Paris, and the provinces. Further, the idea of submitting to the rule of a dynasty restored by foreign arms, could not but prove perpetually irritating to a people of keen feelings, and long accustomed to consider themselves as holding the first place in the system of Europe; nor was this sentiment counteracted by that spirit of loyal attachment to the race of their

monarchs, which though once so general in France, must now have been nearly obliterated. It was, however, in the military class that sentiments existed the most dangerous to the Bourbon government. Almost without exception, the French soldiery, from the general to the private, retained a kind of chivalrous veneration for the chief who had so often led them to glory and victory, and under whose banners, notwithstanding recent disasters, they fondly regarded themselves as still destined to retrieve their own honour and that of their country.

The year, however, commenced in the French capital with those demonstrations of loyalty which are always at the command of actual authority; and to a superficial observer it might appear that the court was in the progress of recovering the influence it formerly possessed over the nation. The municipal body of the *good city* of Paris assured the King in an address, that all his subjects would, if necessary, shorten their own days to add to his; and a solemn ceremonial of disinterring the almost perished remains of Louis XVI. and his Queen in the church-yard of the Magdalen, for their removal to the cathedral of St. Denis, was attended with every expression of devout sensibility. The sovereign of Elba in the meantime had been acting a part well calculated for lulling suspicion. With his visitors, especially the English, he had conversed in that style of apparent frankness which was familiar to him, and which gave the impression of his being cured of all ambitious projects; and he seemed interested in all the petty concerns of his small dominion. A kind of naval supervision of the island was exercised by English and French armed cruizers, but merely as observers, since no authority was claimed of controuling Buonaparte's motions. It has since appeared, that umbrage had been taken by the French government at his attempts to levy troops in Corsica; and it is known that an active correspondence had lately been carrying on between Elba and Naples, by means of the Princess Paulina his sister. A further indication of

some secret designs might have been derived from his late strict orders to keep all strangers at a distance, and from the displeasure he manifested with the usual visits of the British naval commander; no particular measures, however, were adopted by way of caution.

On February 26th, under the shade of evening, the sea appearing clear of obstruction, this daring adventurer embarked at Porto Ferrajo on board of one of his own brigs, followed by four small vessels, altogether conveying about a thousand troops, of whom a few only were French, and the rest Poles, Corsicans, Neapolitans, and Elbese. On March 1st, the expedition anchored off the small port of Cannes in Provence, where the men were landed. No disposition appeared in that quarter to join the invader; on the contrary, a party of his men was repulsed from Antibes. He then put himself in march for Grenoble with his small and motley force.

To suppose that he committed himself and his fortune to the hazard of a mere experiment, would be an imputation of heedless rashness not justified by the former acts of his life. It cannot be doubted that his communications with France must have fully apprized him of the inclinations of the army in his behalf; and even if no direct co-operation had been arranged, he might reasonably rely upon a declaration in his favour as soon as the matter was put to trial. It was not long before this event took place. On his approach to Grenoble, the seventh regiment of the line, commanded by La Bedoyere, marched out and joined him; and the rest of the garrison on the 8th opened the gates to him, delivered up their general and the magazines deposited in the arsenal of that city, and thus placed him in possession of a body of regular troops, with a train of artillery.

As soon as the intelligence of Buonaparte's landing had been received at Paris, a proclamation was issued by the King for the convocation of the two chambers, which had been adjourned; and another, declaring the invader a traitor and a rebel, and denouncing capital

punishment against him and his adherents ; and as soon as his enterprize had put on a serious aspect, Monsieur, the King's brother, repaired to Lyons, whither he was followed by the Duke of Orleans and Marshal Macdonald. Buonaparte appeared before that city on the 9th, whence the Princes had retired on his approach ; and he entered without resistance amidst the shouts of "Vive l'Empereur" from the soldiers and populace. Having thus obtained possession of the second city in France, he assumed, without hesitation, his former dignity, entitling himself "Napoleon, by the grace of God, and the constitutions of the empire, Emperor of the French." He issued a decree declaring all changes made in his absence null and void, dissolving the chambers of peers and deputies, and ordering an assembly of the electoral colleges at Paris in the ensuing May, to hold what he termed a Champ de Mai, for the purpose of correcting and modifying the constitution.

The troops by which he had been joined were as yet comparatively a handful for effecting such an enterprize as marching to the capital and occupying the throne ; but besides the demonstrations he had experienced of the attachment of the soldiers to his person, it is scarcely to be questioned that he had received secret assurances of co-operation from some of the principal commanders. The preparations of the court to oppose him consisted in the assembling of a large body of troops at Melun for the immediate protection of Paris, and the posting of another body at Montargis on the road to Fontainebleau, so that the invader might be placed between two fires ; and this disposition would doubtless have been effectual, had the fidelity of the forces corresponded with their strength. Great reliance had been placed on Marshal Ney, one of the most distinguished military characters in France, who had made a voluntary proffer of his services to the King, and had been appointed to the command of 12 or 15,000 men posted at Lons le Saulnier. As soon, however, as Buonaparte had advanced to Auxerre, he was joined by the

Marshal with his whole diviston, who had hoisted the tri-coloured flag; and Ney sealed his defection by issuing a proclamation to his troops, in which he informed them that the cause of the Bourbons was for ever lost, and that the lawful dynasty, which the French had adopted, was about to re-ascend the throne. This step was decisive. All confidence in the army being now at an end, the King, with the Princes of the blood, left Paris on the 19th, which was entered on the following day by Napoleon, who, without having had occasion to fire a musket, within three weeks of his landing as an adventurer, took possession of the sovereignty of France as an Emperor.

Unopposed, however, as his progress to the throne had been by the nation of which he resumed the government, it was not to be expected that those powers which had united for the express purpose of dethroning him would acquiesce in such a resumption; and as soon as the intelligence of his attempt reached Vienna, a manifesto was published by the plenipotentiaries of those sovereigns who had been parties to the treaty of Paris. In this piece the most determined and irreconcilable hostility was declared against Napoleon Buonaparte, who was said, by breaking the convention which established him in the Isle of Elba, to have placed himself out of the pale of civil and social relations, and as an enemy and disturber of the tranquillity of the world, to have rendered himself liable to public vengeance. The spirit of this declaration was manifested by the return without replies of all the *fraternal* letters sent by Buonaparte to the allied sovereigns, and by the approach of their armies to the French frontiers. In the same month, March 25th, the four powers of Austria, Russia, Great Britain, and Prussia, concluded a treaty at Vienna, binding them to maintain the conditions of the treaty of Paris, and for that purpose, each of them to keep in the field 150,000 men, and not to lay down their arms till Buonaparte should be deprived of the power of exciting disturbances, and of renewing his attempts to obtain the chief authority in France.

Under these circumstances of peril from abroad, the part which Napoleon had to act at home was by no means free from difficulty. How willing soever his former soldiers might be to support him in the absolute dominion he had possessed as Emperor, the political party on which he was to depend consisted for the most part of the friends of liberty, who would receive him in no other capacity than as the head of a free government. This idea was explicitly declared in the addresses presented to him in his imperial character, and in which his cause was represented as that of the people, and he was strongly reminded of the popular maxims which he had announced as those by which the nation was in future to be governed. To such addresses he was obliged to return corresponding answers; and it was the more necessary to court this party, as the royalists in some parts of France were in open opposition to his authority. In the south, the Duke and Duchess of Angouleme by their presence endeavoured to rouse the friends of the house of Bourbon to spirited efforts in their cause, but their attempts had little success. The Duchess, having failed in exciting a resistance to the usurped government at Bourdeaux, took her departure from the country on board of an English frigate. The Duke was enabled to levy troops, with which he obtained some temporary advantages in the vicinity of Valence; but at length, desertion taking place among the national guards on whom he had chiefly depended, he found it necessary on April 8th to sign a convention with the opposite general, by virtue of which the royal army was disbanded, and he was allowed to embark for a foreign country.

A warm attachment to royalty and the Bourbon family had subsisted through the whole French revolution in Britany and La Vendée, and at this time the royalists in those parts had taken up arms for the King, and had made themselves masters of the country which they inhabited. They were not, however, able to extend their quarters towards Paris; and there was a want of concert in all the measures of that party which rendered them

desultory and ineffectual ; whilst in the meantime the new revolution was acquiring strength, and engaging the national enthusiasm in its favour. The King, who had withdrawn first to Lille, and then to Ghent, confined his operations to edicts and ordinances ; and the only military force he possessed was a part of the household troops under the Duke of Berri.

On April 23d Buonaparte published what he entitled " An Additional Act to the Constitution of the Empire ;" which was described as a series of arrangements to modify and improve the constitutional acts which had formerly passed under his government, to strengthen the rights of the citizens, and to combine the highest degree of political liberty with the force necessary for securing the national independence. It was to be submitted to the free acceptance of all France ; and in fact its provisions comprehended every safeguard to liberty which could be desired in a mixed monarchy. In order to prepare against the dangers most immediately threatening him, he had a short time before issued a decree for sending extraordinary commissioners into all the military divisions, furnished with power to abrogate the functions of all civil authorities and officers of the national guards, and to renew them provisionally on the recommendation of the prefects.

The grand ceremonial of the Champ de Mai was, from circumstances, deferred to the 1st of June, when it took place with all the imposing pageantry requisite for a *spectacle*. Its business was only to declare the national acceptance of the new act, which was done, as might be expected, by nearly an unanimity of votes. Napoleon made a speech beginning with the declaration that, as Emperor, Consul, and soldier, he held everything from the people. His own oath, " to observe the constitutions of the empire, and to cause them to be observed," was followed by an oath of obedience to the constitutions, and of fidelity to the Emperor, pronounced by the arch-chancellor, and repeated by the whole assembly. The imperial eagles were then distributed by Napoleon himself to the troops of the line, and the national

guards, who swore to defend them at the hazard of their lives, and not to suffer foreigners to dictate laws to their country. The members of the two chambers afterwards took the same oath that the Electors had done.

The time was now at hand in which the permanency of the new order of things was to be determined not by votes and oaths, but by the event of arms. The close of the last year had left the whole fortified frontier of the Belgic provinces, on the side of France, occupied by strong garrisons chiefly of English troops, or in the pay of England. From the commencement of the alarm excited by Buonaparte's attempt, reinforcements had been unremittingly sent from this country, and the Duke of Wellington had arrived to take the supreme command of the British and foreign troops in Belgium. In the latter part of May, the Prussian army commanded by Prince Blücher, arrived in the neighbourhood of Namur, and frequent conferences relative to co-operation were held by the two generals. The principal French army was at this period posted near Avesnes in Flanders; and preparations for defence against invasion had been made at Laon and the Castle of Guise.

Buonaparte on the 12th of June left Paris and proceeded to Laon. Conformably to his usual plan of pushing forwards at once to the most important point, he determined to make an attack upon the British and Prussian armies, whilst the Russians and Austrians were still too distant to afford succour; and hoped by his success to restore to the dominion of France the Belgic provinces, in which an attachment to that country was supposed to have taken deep root. At the head of a numerous and well-appointed army, composed of the choice of the French regulars, animated with enthusiastic confidence in their leader, he made an attack at day-light of the 15th on the Prussian posts upon the Sambre. Charleroi being carried, General Ziethen retired upon Fleurus, where he was attacked, and underwent a considerable loss. Blücher concentrated the rest of the Prussian army at Sombref; and the French,

continuing their advance on the road to Brussels, drove back a brigade of the Belgian army under the Prince of Weimar, to the position of a farm-house named Quatre Bras. Through some apparent defect of intelligence, Lord Wellington was not informed of these events till the evening, when he immediately ordered such of his troops as were in readiness, to march to the left and support the Prussians. On the 16th Blücher, who was posted on the heights between Brie and Sombref, awaited the attack of the French, although the whole of his army had not joined. The battle raged with great fury from three in the afternoon till late in the evening; when the Prussians, pressed by superior numbers, and receiving no succour, were constrained to retire, leaving behind them 16 pieces of cannon, and a great number of killed and wounded. They, however, formed again at a short distance, and were not pursued. Their veteran commander made the greatest exertions, and was brought into imminent personal danger.

Lord Wellington, in the meantime, had directed his whole army to advance upon Quatre Bras, where the fifth division under General Picton arrived early in the afternoon of the 16th, and was followed by the corps under the command of the Duke of Brunswick, and the contingent of Nassau. It was the Duke of Wellington's desire to afford assistance to Blücher; but he was himself attacked by a large body of cavalry and infantry, with a powerful artillery, whilst his own cavalry had not yet joined. The repeated charges of the French were steadily repulsed, but a considerable loss was incurred, including that of the Duke of Brunswick.

Blücher found himself so much weakened by the day's action, that he fell back during the night to Wavre; and this movement rendering a correspondent one necessary on the part of Wellington, he retired upon Genappe, and on the morning of the 17th moved to Waterloo. The Duke there took a position which crossed the high roads to Brussels from Charleroi and Nivelles, and had in part of its front the house and garden of Hougomont, and in another part, the farm of

La Haye Sainte. By his left he remotely communicated with the Prussians at Wavre.

Buonaparte employed the night of that day, and the morning of the 18th, in collecting his whole force upon a range of heights opposite to the British army, with the exception of his third corps, which was detached to observe Blücher. At ten o'clock he entered into action by a furious attack on the post at Hougomont, which was renewed in different efforts during the whole day, but was resisted with so much firmness, that the position was effectually maintained. At the same time the French carried on a very heavy cannonade against the whole line; and made repeated charges of infantry and cavalry, which were uniformly repulsed, except that the farm-house of La Haye Sainte was forced in one of them. Late in the evening, a desperate effort was made against the left of the British centre near that place, which produced a very severe contest; and for a time it appeared dubious whether the resistance could be persisted in, by troops which had been fatigued with the labours of the whole day, and were pressed by superior numbers. But the Prussians, who had themselves been attacked, and who experienced great difficulty in passing a defile between their position and that of the British, began at length to announce themselves by the fire of their cannon, and by the precipitate retreat of the French on the flank. Wellington seized the moment, and advanced his whole line of infantry, supported by the cavalry and artillery. The French were presently driven from every point of their position on the heights, and fled in the utmost confusion, leaving on the field about 150 pieces of cannon with their ammunition. They were pursued by the victors till long after dark; when the British, exhausted with fatigue, halted, and the further pursuit was committed to the Prussians. The task was well performed, and nothing could be more complete than the discomfiture of the routed army, of which the remains, consisting of about 40,000, partly without arms, and carrying with them no more than 27 pieces

out of their numerous artillery, 'made their retreat through Charleroi. Such, in its main circumstances, was *the Battle of Waterloo*, which will ever be memorable in English history, as affording one of the noblest proofs upon record, of British valour, and of the talents of a great national commander, as well as being in its effects decisive of a most momentous contest, in which the peace of all Europe was at stake. Such a victory was necessarily purchased at a high cost; and no action of the long war returned so bloody a list of British officers. Two generals and four colonels fell on the field, and nine generals and five colonels were among the wounded; of inferior officers, in both, there was a full proportion. The killed, wounded, and missing, of non-commissioned officers and privates, British and Hanoverian, were stated at between 12 and 18,000.

Buonaparte, when he found that all was lost, hastened back to Paris. Assembling his council, it is affirmed that he proposed proclaiming himself dictator, in which he was supported by his brother Louis; but that several members declared it as their opinion, that in the present temper of the public there was no probability that it would be acceded to. It is further asserted, that M. de la Fayette, being made acquainted with what was agitating, repaired immediately to the chamber of representatives, and procured certain resolutions to be carried, by which its sittings were declared permanent, all attempts for its dissolution were pronounced treasonable, and the ministers of state were invited to come to the hall of assembly for the purpose of deliberation. The chamber of peers passed a similar resolution of permanence. After some vacillation, Buonaparte perceiving that he was no longer the object of public confidence, issued a declaration, in which, offering himself "a sacrifice to the hatred of the enemies of France," he affirmed that his political life was terminated, and proclaimed his son Emperor, under the title of Napoleon II. This abdication was accepted by the chambers, but the positive nomination of his son for a successor was eluded; and

a commission was appointed to repair to the allied armies with proposals for peace.

The victors, however, had formed a determination of treating only under the walls of Paris; and both the commanders entered the French territory on the 21st. From Malplaquet the Duke of Wellington addressed a proclamation to the people of France, announcing that he had entered the country, not as an enemy, except of the usurper, the foe of the human race, with whom there could be neither peace nor truce; but to enable them to throw off the yoke by which they were oppressed. On the 23d, he sent a detachment against Cambray, which was taken by escalade with little loss; and Louis XVIII. soon after removed from Ghent to that city. The two armies continued their progress to the capital; and on the 28th, the Prussian advanced-guard was attacked at Villars Coteret, but on the coming up of the main body, the assailants were repulsed with loss. Wellington crossed the Oise on the 29th, and 30th, and Blücher passed the Seine at St. Germaine, the plan being to invest Paris on two sides. The heights about the city were strongly fortified, and it was defended by 40 or 50,000 troops of the line and guards, beside national guards, tirailleurs, and Parisian volunteers. Blücher met with considerable opposition in establishing himself on the left of the Seine, but at length he succeeded; and Paris being now exposed on its most vulnerable side, with a communication opened between the two blockading armies, a request came for the cessation of hostilities for the purpose of a convention. This was concluded on July 3d, between Prince Blücher and the Duke of Wellington on the one part, and the Prince of Eckmühl (Davoust) on the other, and was declared to refer merely to *military* questions, without touching any that were *political*. By its conditions, the French army was on the following day to commence its march for the Loire, and was completely to evacuate Paris within three days; all the fortified posts round the city, and finally its barriers, were to be given up; the duty of Paris was to be per-

formed by the national guards and the municipal *gendarmérie*; public property was to be respected, with the exception of what related to war; private persons and property were also to be respected; and all individuals continuing in the capital were to enjoy their rights and liberties, *without being called to account, either for the situations they may have held, or as to their conduct or political opinions.* This last clause is worthy of observation, because it was afterwards adduced in the trial of an eminent state-criminal, as a promise of general amnesty.

This military convention effected no more than placing Paris in the hands of the allies; and it left a considerable army of French regulars at liberty to act as future circumstances should dispose them, besides a number of others in the field under separate leaders, or in garrisons on the frontiers. It was therefore necessary, in order to bring the country into that state of submission which was thought essential for securing the peace of Europe, that the whole stipulated force of the confederate powers should be brought into action. No time was lost in marching the armies of Austria and Russia to the frontiers of France, and commencing military operations. Although no adequate force could be opposed to their advance, yet resistance was occasionally made, which was productive of bloodshed; and the peasantry of Alsace in particular displayed great animosity against the Austrian invaders, for which they were severely chastised.

At Paris, the chambers continued their sittings after the signature of the convention, and acted as if they were invested with the sovereignty of the nation. That of representatives distinguished itself by the independent spirit of its votes and declarations; but the presence of foreign troops, and the declaration of the ministers of the allies of their resolution to place Louis XVIII. on the throne of France, soon brought this show of popular authority to a close. The chambers were shut by order of the commander of the national guard; and on July 8th the King re-entered his capital.

Its military positions, however, were all occupied by the allied troops; and it was under their safeguard that the royal government was restored, and the white cockade resumed its honours.

Buonaparte, who had entirely withdrawn from the public scene, was now occupied with the care of his own safety, and it was his plan to gain a sea-port whence he might embark for America. On July 3d, he arrived at Rochefort escorted by a general, and for some days resided at the house of the prefect, watching an opportunity for escape by means of vessels in waiting. The port, however, was closely blockaded by English cruisers; and after some ineffectual attempts to elude their vigilance, he determined at length to throw himself upon British protection. On the 15th, having previously sent a flag of truce to the *Bellerophon* man of war, Captain Maitland, he went off with his suit and baggage in a brig, and was conducted to that ship, and taken on board. Upon the intelligence of this event, it was determined by the confederate sovereigns that he should be conveyed as a state prisoner to the small island of St. Helena in the southern Atlantic, an appendage to the British empire, there to be kept under the strictest guard. The *Bellerophon*, accordingly, made sail to Torbay, where the dangerous captive was transferred to the *Northumberland*, Captain Sir G. Cockburn, with a few of his most attached adherents, and the ship soon after proceeded on her voyage.

Having thus brought to a conclusion the narrative of that incident which ruled the principal events of the year, it will be proper to look back, and give a summary view of the contemporary transactions which were taking place in other parts. Of these, the circumstances which put a period to the fortune of Buonaparte's former companion in arms, his brother by alliance, and one of the kings of his creation, claim the first notice, as considerably connected with his own fate.

It has been mentioned that the King of Naples, Joachim Murat, had formed an alliance with the Emperor of Austria in consequence of the union of their interests

at the time when the Austrian arms were engaged in the north of Italy against those of the French Viceroy, Eugene Beauharnois. This treaty was attended with a suspension of the hostilities which the English court, as allies of the King of Sicily, had carried on against him. Confiding in these favourable events, Joachim, who possessed all the ambition of a soldier of fortune, but without political wisdom, advanced a body of troops towards Rome for the purpose of possessing himself of an additional share of the territories of the church. He seems also to have had other projects in view, but vague and immature; and he was perpetually fluctuating between natural attachment to the cause of his old master and relation, and the prudence of joining the party which now appeared superior. The uncertainty of his conduct had rendered him an object of suspicion; and it was obviously contrary to the general system of the allied sovereigns to recognize among their body, one who had obtained a crown by the expulsion of the hereditary possessor. Sensible of a disposition to his prejudice, he complained to the congress of Vienna that the King of France had delayed to acknowledge him; and indeed it afterwards appeared that Talleyrand had proposed to the English ministry a joint attack upon him. Previously to Buonaparte's attempt, it is certain that a close correspondence subsisted between Naples and Elba; but it is dubious whether Joachim was entrusted with the design of the landing in France. On the first intelligence of that event, he declared to his council an intention of remaining faithful to his alliance with Austria, and adhering to the system of the allies; but when he was informed of Buonaparte's reception at Lyons, he avowed that he considered his cause as his own, and demanded of the court of Rome a passage for two of his divisions through its territories.

On March 19th, Joachim placed himself at the head of his troops which had advanced to Ancona, and proceeding through the Marches to the Papal Legations, he attacked the Imperialists who were posted in his

way, and obliged them to retreat. The consequence was a declaration of war against him by Austria. He then addressed a proclamation to the Italians, calling upon them universally to assert their independence, and free themselves from the dominion of foreigners, and affirming that 80,000 Neapolitans, under the command of their King, were hastening to their aid. For some time his progress was successful. The Imperial general, Bianchi, retired before him to the Po, and he pushed on to Ferrara; whilst on the other side of Italy, the Neapolitans entered Florence, and afterwards followed the retreating Austrians to Pistoia. These, however, were the limits of his advance. His proclamation produced no effect; and the Imperialists, collecting their forces, soon became superior to Neapolitan antagonists. Ferrara was rescued, the country near the Po was recovered, and Joachim was compelled to a hasty retreat. A proposal for an armistice was rejected by the Austrian commander; and after actions, in which some of the martial talents and vigour of Murat were displayed, but were ill seconded by his troops, the Neapolitan army was almost entirely broken up. Naples was invested by land, whilst an English naval force entered its port, and forced a surrender of the ships of war and arsenal. On the 20th of May a convention was signed between the Neapolitan commanders, and those of Austria and England, of which the abdication of Joachim, and the delivery of all the fortified places in the kingdom of Naples, with the exception of three that were then under blockade, were articles. Madame Murat, who had taken refuge on board of an English man of war, was to be conveyed to Trieste. Naples was occupied by the allies, who were joined by an armament of English and Sicilians, and on June 17th, Ferdinand, King of the two Sicilies, re-entered that capital, amid the acclamations of the people.

Murat made his escape to Toulon, where he remained, till apprehensions of insecurity led him to try his fortune in Corsica. He there obtained a safe retreat among the mountaineers, of whom he was en-

abled to engage a body in his service, consisting of those who had been in his pay at Naples. Tired at length of his situation, he took the desperate measure of embarking in some small vessels for an attempt on the Neapolitan coast. With two of these he reached the Ulterior Calabria on October 8th, and landed with thirty followers. Proceeding to a village, he attempted to raise the people in his favour, by addressing them as their King. The effect, however, was that of bringing upon him the whole armed population; and being surrounded on his retreat to the sea-coast, after a sharp action, his whole party were killed or taken prisoners. Among the prisoners was Murat himself, who was immediately tried by a military commission, and, with his associates, was condemned to be shot. The sentence was put in execution on the 15th; and thus was terminated the career of a man, who had been elevated to a situation for which he was no otherwise qualified than by possessing the talents of a brave soldier.

In this year was completed that important measure in the general system of Europe, the union of the Seventeen Provinces of the Low Countries under one government. The steps leading to this event left no doubt in the preceding year of the intentions of the coalesced powers on this head; and a letter from the Prince of Orange, as sovereign of Holland, to the secretary of state at Brussels, dated February 23d, announced that by the unanimous consent of Austria, Russia, England, France, and Prussia, all those provinces of Belgium which had formerly been under the dominion of the first of these powers, with the exception of some portions of Limburg and Luxemburg, had been placed under his sovereignty. In consequence of this great accession of territory, which gave him a high rank among the secondary European powers, he assumed the regal title.

The re-possession of the supreme authority in France by Buonaparte was an event peculiarly threatening to the stability of the Belgian throne; since it could not be doubted that if he should succeed in fixing himself

in the imperial seat, the earliest employment of the French arms would be to regain the preponderance of the nation in the Netherlands. The most vigorous efforts were therefore made to resist invasion on that quarter. Belgian troops were sent to join those of the allies, and the Hereditary Prince of Orange received an honourable wound in the conflict with which the French hostilities commenced. The deliverance of Brussels from imminent danger was the immediate result of the victory of Waterloo; and the great changes of which it was the instrument secured the new kingdom of Belgium from all external hazard.

A committee appointed to draw up a constitution for the kingdom presented its report to the sovereign in July, which being afterwards laid before a special assembly of the States-general of the United Netherlands, was unanimously accepted. It contains a plan of limited and hereditary monarchy, with all the safeguards of public and private liberty which experience has sanctioned in such a government. One obvious difficulty in effecting a coalescence of the whole Netherlands into one state arose from the very different sentiments respecting religion prevalent in the two great portions of the country, and which had indeed produced their first separation. The Seven Dutch Provinces, to their Protestant establishment, had joined a system of general toleration, to which they had been in great measure indebted for their prosperity, and which was fundamental in their political system. The Ten Flemish Provinces, on the contrary, had adopted in its extreme the intolerant principle of the Roman catholic church, of which they were regarded as some of the most bigoted members; and the innovations of the Emperor Joseph in this point were among the chief grievances complained of under his government. Their long annexation to France had probably made a change in the opinions of the public in general; but the high clergy, swayed both by their interests and their prejudice, appear to have retained their former prepossessions. Of this, an extraordinary proof was given by

an address from certain prelates to the King of the Netherlands, dated July 28th. In this piece it was affirmed, that the equal favour and protection to all religions promised by the new constitution, was inconsistent with the assurances of his Majesty that the establishment and privileges of the catholic church should be preserved, and incompatible with the fundamental principles of that church. The King was further admonished, that such a regulation must sooner or later alienate the hearts of his subjects in those provinces "with whom, attachment to the catholic faith is stronger and more lively than in any other country in Europe." It does not, however, appear that this remonstrance produced any change in the system of toleration which had been resolved upon; and a subsequent royal ordinance professed to provide only for the security and freedom of the catholic church, without investing it with any exclusive authority. In September the ceremonial of the King's inauguration took place at Brussels, with every mark of general satisfaction. On this occasion, the principal ecclesiastic of the cathedral of St. Gudule addressed a discourse to the King, entirely free from the prelatic sentiments above mentioned, and claiming for the catholic religion no more than the protection guaranteed by the constitution.

The necessity of levying a heavy war-tax on the Belgian states produced some differences in the chamber of representatives, at their autumnal session, but such only as may always be expected in a free assembly agitated by contending interests; and nothing occurred to the end of the year materially to cloud the prospects afforded by a government wisely planned and prudently administered.

The close of the war in which the British empire has been engaged during all the later years of this reign, being regarded as the proper termination of these Annals, it will not be attempted to fill up the narrative of the current year in the same manner as if the subject was still pending. A very concise record of the remaining events of the year is therefore all that will be at-

tempted for the completion of the volume and the work.

The signature in Europe of a peace between Great Britain and the United States of America, which took place in the preceding December, could not restrain the progress of military operations which had been planned on the supposition of a continued war; and the vicinity of New Orleans, in the last week of 1814 and the beginning of 1815, was the theatre of a sanguinary contest. A British army collected for an attack on that town was disembarked on December 23d, and repulsed with loss in an assault by an American force. Sir Edward Pakenham taking the chief command, on the 25th advanced to a position within six miles of New Orleans, where the American main body was described strongly posted behind a canal, with their right resting upon the Mississippi, and their left touching a thick wood. Several days were passed in mutual preparations, till, on January 8th, the British army was formed for a general attack on the enemy's line. It was intended that this should be preceded by carrying a flanking battery of the Americans; for which purpose, a detached force under Colonel Thornton had crossed the river in the night, in order to proceed along its right bank. Some unexpected difficulties retarded the execution of this part of the plan, so that, although it finally succeeded, the effect of its co-operation was lost; and when the main attack took place, a galling and destructive fire was immediately opened from every point of the American line. In the midst of it, General Pakenham, while advancing to animate his men, was struck by two shots, one of which proved almost instantly fatal. Generals Keane and Gibbs were at the same time carried off wounded, the latter mortally; and the sight so much disheartened the troops, that they fell back in great confusion. Their retreat was checked by the advance of the reserve; but nothing further could be attempted; and the enterprise, which seems to have been conducted with more courage than judgment, terminated in the loss of about 2000 killed, wounded, and

prisoners, of officers and privates. The whole army was soon after re-embarked, with their artillery, ammunition, and stores, leaving a few of the most dangerously wounded to the care of the enemy.

The concluding action of the war was the capture of Fort Mobbille by Admiral Cochrane and General Lambert, which, being wholly unable to resist the British force, capitulated on February 11th.

The naval contest between the two countries was closed by a triumph over one of the most formidable of the American commanders, who, however, incurred no loss of honour on the occasion. A British squadron, consisting of a man of war and three frigates, stationed off the coast of New York, in order to prevent the United States ship President, Commodore Decatur, and other vessels at Staten Island, from putting to sea, descried, on January 15th, the President attempting to get out, and commenced a general chase. After a run of many hours, the Endymion frigate, Captain Porter, came up with the President, and an action ensued, which was maintained with great vigour on both sides for two hours and a half. The Endymion's sails being then cut from the yards, the American got a-head; but at length, the Pomone coming up with her, and firing a few shots, Commodore Decatur hailed to say he had struck. The loss of men was considerable in both the contending vessels, but by much the greatest on board the President. This ship was a frigate of the large American size, and had on board about 490 persons.

The parliamentary transactions of this year were not very important, for almost every other interest was absorbed in that produced by the great changes going on in France, and these were scarcely completed, before the single session of parliament came to a close. Topics, indeed, were brought to discussion, which for the time excited considerable attention; but a summary account of what was really effected in parliament may be comprized in a small space.

A resumed consideration of the corn laws having been resolved upon, notwithstanding the check given to farther

proceedings in the last session, on February 17th the Right Honourable Frederick Robinson moved for a committee of the whole House of Commons upon the subject. This being agreed to, he produced nine several resolutions, of which the most important related to the fixing of an average price of grain, at which free importation was to be permitted, and below which it was to be prohibited. The proposed price for wheat, which regulated the rest, was 80s. per quarter. A bill framed upon these resolutions was then introduced, which in its passage through both Houses encountered much opposition, various efforts being made to lower the importing standard; but it was carried into a law by great majorities. The passions of the populace in the metropolis being excited by the apprehension of an immediate advance in the price of bread as the consequence, tumults ensued, which for two or three days bore a serious aspect, and were not quelled without military aid. In the result, however, the bill proved entirely inefficacious; for an unusual plenty of grain in the three kingdoms reduced the price far below that standard, and left the agricultural part of the community to struggle with distresses which continued throughout the year.

A bill brought in by the lord chancellor for the introduction of trial by jury in civil causes into the jurisprudence of Scotland, and which was generally acceptable in that country, passed into a law. The noble and learned mover wished that the measure could have been carried farther than was attempted by this bill, which left it optional with the judges whether to grant such a trial in each case; but he hoped that at no distant period a further extension of the principle would be concurred in.

An act passed, on the motion of the chancellor of the exchequer, for continuing the restriction of cash payments by the bank of England till July 1816.

The landing of Buonaparte in France produced a message from the Prince Regent to both Houses of Parliament on May 22d, in which it was mentioned,

that in consequence of this event, his Royal Highness, had judged it necessary to enter into engagements with his allies for preventing the revival of a system incompatible with the peace and independence of Europe, and that he relied upon the support of parliament in all the measures which would be found requisite. Various documents were then laid before both Houses relative to the subject, and the message being afterwards taken into consideration, corresponding addresses were carried by great majorities. When the subsidies to the allies were under discussion in the House of Commons, Lord Castlereagh moved for a grant of five millions to make good the engagements entered into with the sovereigns of Austria, Russia, and Prussia, which, on a division, was carried by 160 votes to 17. It may be here observed, that in the various debates relative to the renewal of war with France, in consequence of the re-possession of its throne by Buonaparte, the sense of both Houses was strongly expressed in favour of that measure, not only by the usual supporters of ministry, but by some who habitually acted with the opposition: of the latter may be mentioned Lord Grenville in the House of Lords, and Mr. Grattan in that of the Commons.

It had been the intention of the chancellor of the exchequer, in the beginning of the year, to take off the unpopular property tax, and substitute such new duties as would be necessary to provide for the still heavy demands on the public purse; but his plans were entirely deranged by the change of circumstances; and he opened his budget on June 14th, by expressing his regret that events had rendered it necessary for him to propose that provision should be made for the prosecution of a war on the most extensive scale, whilst the country was yet labouring under the burthens thrown on it by a former contest. Besides, therefore, the continuance of the property and other war taxes, and the imposition of new duties, it was found necessary to raise 45 and a half millions by two loans, in order to supply the prodigious sum of very nearly 80 millions required from Great Britain, exclusive of the Irish pro-

portion of more than nine millions and three-quarters, and a vote of credit of six millions.

A matrimonial connection was in this year formed by a member of the royal family, rendered remarkable by its immediate consequences, and which may possibly hereafter influence the succession to the crown. The Duke of Cumberland, the fifth of his Majesty's sons, having married in Germany the relict of the Prince Salm's Braunsfels, a daughter of the Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, and niece of the Queen of England, it was thought necessary, in order that the marriage should become valid in this country, that the nuptial ceremony should be repeated in England. This being performed in the month of June, the Prince Regent delivered a message to parliament, informing the two Houses of the circumstance, with his own consent, and requesting a provision for the married pair suitable to their rank. In the debate on this subject in the House of Commons, besides other objections to the purpose of the message, it was affirmed, without contradiction, that the Queen was so much dissatisfied with the union, as to declare that the bride would not be admitted at her court. The conclusion of repeated divisions on the bill introduced in correspondence with the message, was its rejection by 126 votes to 125 ; a striking proof of a *moral* feeling influencing that house, apart from political or party considerations.

Parliament was prorogued on July 11th by a speech from the throne, chiefly consisting of a recapitulation of the extraordinary events on the continent, which had terminated so much to the glory of the allied arms, but which, it was said, had left a state of affairs in which it was necessary that there should be no relaxation in our exertions till those arrangements were completed, whereby a prospect of permanent peace and security should be afforded to Europe. The state of things here alluded to will be cursorily noticed, after some foreign occurrences relative to this country have been commemorated.

In the latter part of 1814, disputes between the British government in Bengal, and the state of Nepal,

concerning boundaries, had broken out into open hostility, and various unsuccessful attempts had been made by the British arms against the Fort of Kalunga, in one of which, the brave commander, General Gillespie, lost his life. The fort was at length evacuated by its garrison; and a series of warlike operations was carried on for some months between the two contending powers in the mountainous districts interposed between them, the detail of which is intolligible and interesting only to those who have obtained a knowledge of the country. The fortune of the war was various, and the Nepaulese showed themselves no contemptible antagonists; the final result, however, under the conduct of General Ochterlony, was the surrender of the Gorkah or Nepaulese commander-in-chief, and a convention by which the whole tract of border-land in dispute was ceded to the English East India Company.

In the Island of Ceylon, a revolution was effected by the British arms, which put an end to the singularly divided dominion of that country, and rendered it entirely a British possession. From the time of the unfortunate termination of the attack on the King of Candy in 1803, that sovereign had carried on occasional hostilities against the British frontier and the people under the protection of its government, and had also exercised the most oppressive tyranny upon his own subjects. His cruelties at length became so atrocious, that it was determined by the British governor and commander-in-chief, Lieutenant-General Brownrigg, to assist the natives in throwing off the yoke; and early in the year an expedition to the interior of the island was undertaken by the British troops. They advanced in several divisions, none of which had any other obstacles to encounter than those of the roads and weather, all the Adigars or nobles being ready to join them as soon as their families were in a state of safety. Candy, the capital, was entered by a detachment on February 11th and was found entirely deserted. The King had taken to flight with a small number of his Malabar adherents, and on the 18th was surrounded and taken prisoner by his own subjects, who gave every mark of

detestation of a tyrant. A solemn conference was afterwards held between the British governor and the Candian Adigars and principal chiefs, at which a treaty was unanimously agreed upon, whereby the government of the King of Great Britain was established in the Candian territories. A proclamation was then issued, declaring the deposition of the Rajah or King, on the ground of having forfeited all claims to his title and power by his "habitual violation of the most sacred duties of a sovereign;" and his family and relatives, in the ascending and descending line, were also for ever excluded from the throne, together with the whole Malabar race. By other articles, the religion of Boodh was established, all bodily torture and mutilation was abolished, and no capital execution was permitted without warrant from the British governor. Such was the character and principle of this remarkable Indian revolution.

The British arms, which had been so efficaciously employed to support the Bourbon sovereignty in France, were not less serviceable to the same cause in the French West India islands. The intelligence of Buonaparte's success excited the same enthusiasm in his favour among the troops posted in those colonies, as his appearance had done in those of France. At Martinico, the governor Count de Vaugirard, who remained unshaken in his loyalty to the King, found it necessary to anticipate an open revolt, by releasing from their obligations such of the military officers as desired it, at the same time informing them that they must quit the island, and that an attempt to raise the standard of rebellion would be resisted by force. This event, however, would probably have taken place, had not Sir James Leith, commander of the British troops in the Leeward Islands, sent a timely aid to Martinico, which, by occupying all the strong positions, held the disaffected under great awe. Almost the whole of the French troops were afterwards permitted to depart, unarmed.

In Guadaloupe the contest was much more serious. The arrival of a vessel from France in June, was the signal of an insurrection in which both the military and citizens declared for Buonaparte. The governor, Ad-

miral Count de Linois, after having, for the sake of appearance, undergone an arrest, issued a proclamation acquainting the people with the success of Buonaparte, and recognizing him as Emperor. General Boyer concurred in the measure, and the revolution was declared with enthusiastic acclamations. The British commander-in-chief, however, did not hesitate to undertake the task of reducing the insurgents; and as soon as the affairs of Martinico were settled, he collected all the disposable force of the British islands, and in conjunction with Rear-Admiral Sir Charles Durham, effected a landing on Guadaloupe in August. A series of operations, conducted with equal vigour and ability, brought the insurgents to a capitulation, by which the French governor and general, the troops of the line, and the militia still in arms, were to be sent to France as prisoners of war to the Duke of Wellington, all the forts, magazines, &c. in the island were delivered up to the British troops, and all private arms were to be surrendered. The spirit of revolt was not, however, entirely subdued, and a desultory war was carried on late in the year by some French deserters who had taken refuge in the woods.

We now return to the great theatre of European politics.

Louis XVIII. had resumed a crown under circumstances which rendered it truly a crown of thorns. Seeing himself entirely in the hands of foreign troops, as his guardians, and only the nominal sovereign of a country distracted by party, and in a state of perpetual irritation from a sense of fallen greatness and present subjugation, it is no wonder that his measures were at first fluctuating, and that his councils underwent frequent change. To the historians of France must be left a narrative of political events, highly interesting to the speculatist, and still in the course of operation: no more will here be attempted than to bring to a close the affairs of the country as immediately influenced by the allied arms.

Some of the principal towns in France which had been held out by their military commanders were at

length brought to submit; and the French army itself, that dangerous engine of power in any hand, was finally dissolved, to be replaced by a new one upon national principles. The confidence gradually acquired by the court was displayed by the trial and execution of Marshal Ney, perhaps the first soldier left in the country. The public discontent was however greatly aggravated by an act of resumption exercised by the allies; that of entirely stripping the museum of the Louvre of all those fruits of conquest which had rendered it the repository of the most famous works of art in Europe, and restoring them to their original proprietors. After a long and anxious suspense, the congress of Vienna made public the conditions upon which France was permitted to keep her station in the European community. By treaties and conventions signed at Paris, November 20th, an indemnity to the allied powers for their exertions occasioned by the enterprize of Buonaparte was imposed upon that country, consisting partly in cessions of territory, and partly in pecuniary payments. For the first, certain alterations in the frontier between France and Belgium, the Upper Rhine, and the vicinity of Geneva, were prescribed, not considerable in extent, but important in point of situation. For the second, an assessment was made of 700 millions of francs, to be divided among the allies, and defrayed by modes and at periods specified in a separate convention. In order to retain a powerful hold upon the French nation during a future period of probation, seventeen of its towns on the frontiers of French Flanders, Champagne, Lorrain, and Alsace, were to be occupied, for a term not exceeding five years, but which circumstances might reduce to three, by a body of allied troops not greater than 150,000 men, to be maintained by France. Such was the bitter cup of humiliation to be drained by that country, after so many triumphs over her neighbours, enjoyed with so little moderation.

The final settlement of Europe by the congress was not authentically declared in the course of this year; but to those of its determinations which have been

already mentioned as carried into effect, some others may be added. The King of Saxony, notwithstanding his remonstrances, was compelled to submit to that privation of territory which was inflicted on him for being the *last* adherent of the French Emperor, and which was to form an *indemnity* to Prussia. It was put in execution in May, and the acquisitions by the King of Prussia were expressed in the new titles he assumed, of Duke of Saxony, Landgrave of Thuringia, Margrave of both Lusatias, and Count of Henneberg. About the same time he re-entered into the possession of his former Polish provinces, consisting of the Grand Duchy of Posen, the cities and territories of Dantzic and Thoru, and the circles of Culm and Michelan. He also obtained the annexation of Swedish Pomerania. The Polish senate at Warsaw had been previously acquainted by the Emperor Alexander with the decision of the congress respecting that part of Poland which was to be united to the Russian empire, but with the preservation of its own constitution; and on this event Alexander took the title of King of Poland.

The future tranquillity of Germany was provided for by a solemn act of confederation, signed at Vienna in June by its sovereigns and free cities, including the Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia, for those of their possessions formerly appertaining to the German empire; the King of Denmark for Holstein; and the King of the Netherlands for Luxemburg. The affairs of the confederation are to be managed by a general assembly or diet composed of representatives of all the states; and a variety of regulations are made for the preservation of internal peace, and for resistance to foreign attacks. If this confederacy remains firmly united, and acts up to its declared principles, it may be a powerful preservative against the renewal of those wars, domestic and foreign, of which Germany has so often been the cause and the victim.

Such have been the mutations of past years, that nothing can be regarded as more hazardous than prediction; and a time in which all Europe is swarming

with men inured to the trade of arms, and the military profession occupies the highest rank and credit in society, may appear peculiarly unfavourable to the expectation of permanent tranquillity. Yet there are other considerations which may perhaps justify the hope, that the close of the year 1815 will prove a more auspicious era in the history of Europe, than that of any of the temporary suspensions of arms which have preceded it. These are, the absolute inability for renewed projects of ambition to which the power most active and successful in disturbing the peace of the world has been reduced; and the experienced efficacy of a combination of nearly co-equal potentates, to restrain the dangerous predominancy of any single one, and suppress, in their origin, attempts for aggrandizement by violence and injustice. It may be added, that the burdens of war have pressed so heavily upon all the belligerent states, that an interval of repose appears essentially necessary to place them in the condition of wielding with effect those formidable weapons which are left in their hands. All exhibit symptoms of exhaustion, and none more than that power to which the rest have so long been accustomed to look for unstinted resources. Great Britain has fought and paid for the general interests of Europe, till she has arrived at the summit of national glory. It has now become necessary that her attention should be principally directed to the recovery of national prosperity.

THE anticipations in which we ventured to indulge on recording in our pages the pacification of Paris, have not been falsified by the event. Four years of tranquillity have now consolidated the general peace of Europe. The confederated potentates have judged it safe to withdraw their armies of occupation from the territory of France; and the throne of Louis XVIII. appears to have acquired additional stability from a measure which has thrown him for support upon the affections of his people.

Thus, the long series of transactions, military and political, arising out of the memorable French revolution, may be regarded as closed; and no future historian of that event will find it necessary to pursue his narrative beyond the peace of Paris, unless to record the resolutions of the assembled sovereigns at the convention of Aix la Chapelle.

Not only the part taken by Great Britain in the first war with revolutionary France, but the renewal of hostilities after the peace of Amiens, was in great measure the result of the personal character and individual will of George III.; on which account it appeared desirable in the annals of his reign to carry on the history of this memorable contest to its termination, although the sovereign, so far from being an agent in its final development, was not even an intelligent witness of the event. But a similar plea cannot be urged for pursuing further the course of European history.

With respect to domestic affairs, the case is different: the monarch, even in his deep seclusion, might still be in some measure regarded as ruling the destinies of Britain, through ministers originally of his own appointment; and a continued, though brief, narrative of home affairs will be required to bring us down to the period which, by closing the life and the afflictions of the aged sovereign, has rendered his character a fit subject for the pen of history.

A. D. 1816.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 56 & 57.
 ——— PARLIAMENT 4 & 5.

Prince Regent's Speech. — Motion respecting the Holy Alliance. — Motion respecting the Spanish Regency and Cortes. — Army Estimates. — Question of the Continuation of the Property Tax carried against Ministers. — War Malt-tax repealed. — Distressed state of Agriculture. — Message to Parliament respecting the Marriage of the Princess Charlotte. — Motion respecting the Resumption of Cash Payments. — Question of Catholic Emancipation negatived. — Alien Bill. — Civil List Expenditure. — Consolidation of the English and Irish Exchequers. — Silver Coinage. — Budget. — Committee appointed for the Revision of the Statute Book. — Prorogation of Parliament. — Embarrassed state of the Country. — Disturbed state of the eastern Counties. — Insurrection in the Isle of Ely, — Distress of the Iron Manufacturers. — Petitions for Redress of Grievances and for Parliamentary Reform. — Spa-fields Meeting and Tumult. — Marriage of Princess Charlotte to the Prince of Saxe Cobourg — of Princess Mary to the Duke of Gloucester. — Expedition against Algiers.

ON February 1st, parliament was opened by commission; the speech delivered in the name of the Prince Regent was filled with the happiest auguries of returning prosperity. It congratulated the two houses not only on the restoration of the country to a state of profound peace, through the re-establishment of the throne of the Bourbons and the alliances contracted with all the confederated powers, but on the flourishing condition of the commerce, manufactures and revenue of the kingdom. The commons were also assured, that they might rely on the disposition of his royal highness to co-operate in such measures of economy as should be found consistent with the security of the country and

the station which it occupied in Europe. Copies of the treaties concluded were then laid before parliament.

Lord Castlereagh soon after made a motion, which was acceded to, for the erection of a naval monument in honour of the battle of Trafalgar, of Lord Nelson, and of the officers and seamen who lost their lives on that glorious occasion,—a counterpart to the resolution lately carried for a Waterloo monument, dedicated to the Duke of Wellington and the army.

On February 9th, Mr. Brougham moved for the production of a copy of a treaty entered into at Paris on September 26th, between the sovereigns of Austria, Russia and Prussia; and which had received the sign manual of these potentates. By the tenor of this singular document, which received the name of the *Holy Alliance*, and was couched in the most devout and solemn language, the high contracting parties declared their resolution to take for their sole guide, both in their domestic administration and foreign relations, the precepts of the holy religion of Christ their Saviour. In consequence, they bound themselves to the observance of three articles: the first of which united them in a fraternity of mutual assistance, and in the common protection of religion, peace and justice; which in the second article was explained to notify, that they regarded themselves as delegated by Providence to govern three branches of one and the same Christian nation, of which the Divine Being, under his three characters, was the sole real sovereign; the third article declared a readiness to receive into this holy alliance all the powers who should solemnly avow the sacred principles which had dictated it. Politicians were much perplexed to comprehend the meaning of an engagement at once so vague and so serious, which appeared to bind the contracting parties to nothing more than as Christian princes they stood already pledged to observe; and it was stated to have originated in a kind of enthusiastic impression made upon the mind of the Emperor Alexander, who had published a manifesto on the subject, dated on Christmas-day.

Lord Castlereagh resisted the production of this document, although he admitted that the Prince Regent had been urged by a joint letter of the three sovereigns to accede to it, and had in reply expressed his satisfaction at the nature of the treaty, and given an assurance that the British government would not be one of the least disposed to act up to its principles. Subsequent events seem to indicate, that a resolution to support the authority of each other against any revolutionary movements among their own subjects was the true object of this mystical combination of princes, veiled by so thick a mantle of religion.

Another unsuccessful motion was brought forward by Mr. Brougham, for an address to the Prince Regent, "humbly entreating him to take into his gracious consideration the sufferings of the late Spanish regency and Cortes; and representing, that the alliance at present subsisting between his royal highness and his catholic majesty affords the most favourable opportunity for interposing the good offices of Great Britain in their behalf with the weight that belongs to her and to the sentiments of this House and of the people." The speech of the mover served at least the purpose of a historical narrative of the cruelties perpetrated by Ferdinand VII. against the brave men who had contended for his crown, and a protest against measures by which he had compromised the interests and in some degree the honour of the British nation; whilst the answer of Lord Castlereagh exhibited a temper decidedly hostile to the party in Spain called that of the *Liberales*, and a disposition to reprobate the invective so freely bestowed in this country on the conduct and character of his catholic majesty.

The subject of army estimates was productive of warm debates in both Houses. After a good deal of preliminary discussion, the secretary at war, Lord Palmerston, proposed for the year 1816, an establishment for Great Britain and Ireland of 176,615 men, inclusive of the forces stationed in France, and of 30,480 men proposed to be disbanded; but exclusive of the regiments in the service of the East India company, of the foreign corps

in British pay, and of the embodied militia. After being strongly contested in every stage of their progress, both this resolution and all the grants of money founded upon the different items which it comprehended, were carried by government; but a respect for the general opinion out of doors, afterwards led ministers to make some reductions on various articles of expence. The navy estimates were carried without deduction, though not without debate.

The continuation of the property tax was opposed by numerous petitions to parliament, which continued pouring in from day to day, and which were enforced by numerous speeches, turning either upon the distresses of the country, which rendered such an impost too grievous to be longer borne, or upon the breach of public faith involved in the renewal, during a time of peace, of what, at the period of its imposition, was universally regarded as a war-tax. At length, on March 18th, the question was decided by a petition presented by Sir William Curtis from the merchants, bankers and traders of the city of London, convened at the mansion-house, and supported by no less than 22,000 signatures, among which appeared the names of many persons of the first respectability, a considerable proportion of whom, though original supporters of the tax, now united with their fellow-citizens in reprobating its continuance. At the conclusion of a debate in which the voices of the speakers were drowned in impatient cries of question, the division exhibited the following numbers: for the continuance of the tax 201, against it 238—majority 37.

Subsequently to this important defeat, the chancellor of the exchequer surprised the House by voluntarily tendering a resignation of the war-tax on malt. After being deprived, he said, of the principal resource on which he had calculated, he must of necessity have recourse to the money market, and it was of little importance that the amount of the malt duty should be added to the loan.

A motion by Mr. Weston for a committee to take into consideration the distressed state of agriculture in the kingdom, was the means of exhibiting a condition of that important interest which excited throughout the country both commiseration and alarm; but ministers appeared resolved to turn a deaf ear to complaints which they were perhaps aware that it was beyond their power to redress; and after a good deal of desultory speaking, which served no useful purpose, the subject was dropped.

On March 14th, a message from the Prince Regent announced the approaching marriage, with his consent, of his daughter, the Princess Charlotte Augusta, with his serene highness Leopold George Frederic, Prince of Cobourg Saalfeld; and expressed his persuasion of the concurrence of the House in enabling him to make such provision on the occasion as might correspond with the dignity and honour of the country. It was subsequently proposed by the chancellor of the exchequer, and unanimously agreed to by the House, that an income of £60,000 should be settled on the illustrious pair; of which £10,000 was to form a sort of privy purse for her royal highness, and the remainder was to defray the domestic expences of the Prince of Cobourg; this sum to be settled on them for their joint lives. If the Prince of Cobourg should die first, the whole to be continued to her royal highness; if he should be the survivor, the sum of £50,000 to be continued to him. The allowance to the Princess from the civil list of £30,000 a-year was to cease. A further sum of £60,000 was granted by way of outfit.

Mr. Horner brought the subject of the resumption of cash payments before the House by a motion, supported by a very learned and able speech, for the appointment of a select committee of inquiry. This motion was negatived, and the chancellor of the exchequer then introduced a bill for continuing the restrictions on bank payments until the 5th of July 1818, to which Mr. Horner in vain endeavoured to pro-

cure a declaration to be appended, importing that these restrictions should be no more renewed.

The question of catholic emancipation was again discussed at great length and with much earnestness in both Houses, on occasion of petitions from the catholics both of England and Ireland. Lord Castlereagh supported the bill brought in for their relief; but it was opposed by Mr. Peel, the secretary for Ireland, and was finally negatived in the House of Commons by 172 to 141, and in the House of Lords by 73 against 69.

Lord Castlereagh moved the repeal of the alien bill then in force, in order to the substitution of another, which was, in fact, only a renewal of the alien bill passed two years before, after the peace of Paris. The act was strongly resisted by the gentlemen in opposition, who regarded it as rather subservient to the policy of the French court, than called for by the circumstances of England; since it was to the former country alone that the residence here of the partisans of Buonaparte, — the class of emigrants against whom Lord Castlereagh admitted it to be aimed,—could be imagined to involve any inconvenience or danger.

Motions for inquiry into the civil-list expenditure, and into the salaries of various public offices, were successfully resisted by the ministry; but the latter produced a close division between the two sides of the House; the numbers were, for the motion 126, against it 169—majority 43.

The consolidation of the English and Irish exchequers, and a new silver coinage in which the denomination of the coin was raised by a small seignorage, 66 instead of 62 shillings being allowed to the pound troy, were other measures of importance carried through the two Houses during this session.

The budget for the year 1816 was thus stated by the chancellor of the exchequer: supply, £25,140,186; ways and means, £27,305,771. Of the latter, six millions were to be advanced by the bank on bills, and three millions more as a loan to the public at 3 per cent.

A great and useful work was commenced by a motion of Earl Stanhope in the House of Lords, that the House should resolve itself into a committee, to consider of the best means of arranging the statute law of this country under distinct and proper heads. At the suggestion of the Lord Chancellor, a select committee was preferred to one of the whole House; and the resolution of the peers concerning the expediency of such an arrangement of the statute book as was proposed, was also agreed to by the House of Commons, with an amendment extending it to the statutes of Scotland and Ireland.

Parliament was prorogued on July 2d, with a speech from the Prince Regent, in which, after referring to the marriage of the Princess Charlotte with the Prince of Saxe Cobourg, his royal highness mentioned, that he had given the royal assent to a marriage between his sister the Princess Mary and the Duke of Gloucester, the King's nephew. Amongst other topics, reference was made to the measures which his royal highness had been under the necessity of adopting for the suppression of tumults which had unfortunately arisen in some parts of the country,—measures, however, which he asserted to have produced the most salutary effects. Whilst deep regret was expressed at the distresses which, at the close of a long war, circumstances had unavoidably entailed on many classes of his Majesty's subjects, a confident reliance was declared on their public spirit and fortitude in struggling with difficulties which, it was hoped, would be found to have arisen from causes but of a temporary nature.

The domestic situation of Great Britain during the year 1816, proved a strong contrast with the flattering picture of internal prosperity and happiness afforded by the speech of the Prince Regent on the opening of parliament. It was soon discovered, that the mischiefs of a war of five-and-twenty years, which had successively extended its ravages or its influence over every kingdom of Europe, were not so speedily to be repaired

by a return to a state of peace. England especially, whose happy exemption from the miseries attendant on the seat of warfare, added to a naval superiority which enabled her to maintain uninterrupted commerce with every friendly port, had rendered her least of any nation a sufferer from the protraction of hostilities, was doomed to experience inconveniences from their cessation which appeared the more formidable because they had not been anticipated. The war itself had been a customer to her various home manufactures to the amount of several millions annually; the loss of which demand threw multitudes of artisans out of employment, and reduced the prices of goods and of labour in general, with an alarming suddenness. The monopoly of foreign trade, which she had long enjoyed, was at an end as soon as the seas could be safely navigated by every flag without the protection of a commanding navy. The attempts of her manufacturers to compensate these losses by a recurrence to their ancient marts on the continent, or by the establishment of new ones in different quarters of the globe, proved for the most part unsuccessful; either from the impoverished state of the nations of Europe, and their anxiety to supply their wants by their own diligence and ingenuity, or from the disproportionate supply of every article with which British industry and British enterprise hastened to glut every market. These disappointments compelled the master-manufacturers either to suspend or greatly to reduce the fabrication of their goods, and great and daily augmenting distress in the class of journeymen was the unavoidable consequence.

The agricultural distress, for which parliament had vainly endeavoured to discover a remedy in the early part of the session, changed its nature as the year advanced, but without any mitigation of its severity. The pressure on the cultivators of the soil had then been believed to arise from the depreciation of domestic produce by the importation of foreign supplies; and as

the growth of the country was supposed to be fully adequate at all times to its consumption, it had been proposed to repeal that clause in the corn-bill of the former year, which permitted the warehousing of foreign corn duty-free. Fortunately this measure had not yet been carried into effect, when a season of remarkable inclemency commenced, from which a deficient harvest was too surely prognosticated. The price of corn rapidly advanced, an alarm of scarcity arose, and importation was to be encouraged as an indispensable resource. This increase in the price of the first necessities of life, unhappily coinciding with the reduced state of wages and the deficiency of regular employment, produced among the poor a mass of suffering which vented itself in discontent, in murmurs, and, finally, in acts of outrage. In the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Huntingdon and Cambridge, nightly assemblages were held,—threatening letters sent,—and houses, barns and rick-yards set on fire; and in the isle of Ely a kind of organized insurrection broke forth, which exhibited alarming features of moral depravity in the instigators and perpetrators. It was not suppressed without a considerable exertion of force: a special commission was afterwards issued for the trial of the offenders, and several of them paid the forfeit of their lives.

The distress of several manufacturing districts became truly appalling: the iron works of the south of Staffordshire, principally dependent on the demand for warlike purposes, were almost entirely suspended, and the whole labouring population thrown for support upon the parochial funds, which quickly proved inadequate to the supply of so great a multitude; the hand of charity, however, was readily extended for their relief, and, on the whole, the iron manufacturers bore their privations with the most laudable patience. A tumult, however, arose amongst those in the neighbourhood of Merthyr Tydvil in South Wales, which was not suppressed without the aid of the military.

Under the pressure of calamity so widely and so deeply felt, it is not surprising if the minds of men, eagerly turned to explore its causes and its remedies, should have been more than ordinarily disposed to impute blame to the conduct of their rulers; nor can it be affirmed that plausible grounds of censure were wanting. The pledge to the observance of economy given by the Regent in his speech to parliament at the opening of the session, seemed to have been inadequately fulfilled; and the suggestions of the opposition members, which appeared to have pointed out various fit objects of retrenchment, had been uniformly over-ruled by a ministry habituated and attached to the reckless profusion on minor objects which naturally accompanies the enormous expenditure of war; — circumstances peculiarly adapted in such times to shake the popular confidence in the wisdom or the integrity of government. A spirit of petitioning for the redress of obvious grievances became general; and numerous public meetings were convened for the purpose, at which the waste and corruption arising from pensions, sinecures, and extravagance of every kind in the administration of the public money, were animadverted upon with great freedom and severity. Such topics of invective powerfully re-acted upon the passions of the inferior orders; and when it was observed, for the first time probably in English history, that political assemblies were numerous and zealously attended by the lowest and most ignorant classes of the community, who were harangued by orators of their own; the more temperate and more respectable opponents of the administration withdrew from the scene, apprehensive of giving a sanction to popular tumult, and anxious to await the effect of these formidable demonstrations on the conduct of ministers.

This was more especially the result, when, amongst other topics, the long agitated question of parliamentary reform, which the whig party appeared to have abandoned as an impracticability, began to undergo zealous discussion at some of these meetings. In the most guarded petitions presented at this juncture for

redress of grievances, the subject was indeed carefully avoided; but it formed a prominent feature in several remonstrances, and especially in one of a very comprehensive nature, presented to the Prince Regent by the corporation of London. On the whole, these popular assemblages, whatever might be thought of their future tendencies or ultimate objects, were conducted in an orderly and decorous manner; and only in one instance gave occasion to a breach of the public peace, and to acts of an immediately alarming character. This instance occurred on December 2d, when a meeting having been convened in Spa-fields by Mr. Hunt, late candidate for Bristol, to receive the answer to a petition which had been presented to the Prince Regent, a band of desperados, who appeared on the ground with a tri-coloured flag and other banners, after listening to inflammatory harangues from two persons of the name of Watson, began their march towards the city. They procured arms by breaking into a gunsmith's shop on Snow-hill, where a gentleman, who offered some remonstrance, was shot by the younger Watson; then proceeding down the city in military array, they had the audacity to fire at the Lord Mayor, after three of their body had been seized by him and others and confined within the Royal Exchange. Their number, however, was from the first insignificant; and after plundering two or three shops of arms of various kinds, they were dispersed or taken, without further mischief, and one or two examples were afterwards made of the ring-leaders. After this occurrence, every meeting of this nature in the vicinity of the metropolis was watched by a considerable military force, as well as by strong bodies of special constables.

The marriage of the Princess Charlotte took place on May 2d, and was hailed by the cordial felicitations of the whole English people; who understood that his personal merit alone had recommended the Prince of Saxe-Cobourg to the choice of the presumptive heiress of the British throne. This prince had acquired high reputation in the war of Buonaparte, as a commander of

cavalry in the allied army ; and accompanying the confederated princes in their visit to England in 1814, the solidity of his understanding and the propriety of his conduct, had so favourably impressed the Prince Regent, that he was readily induced to sanction what was understood to be the wish of his royal daughter. The union of the Princess Mary to the Duke of Gloucester was completed in the month of July ; and no application was made to the public purse on this occasion.

In the midst of the tranquillity of Europe, an occasion arose in this year for a display of the undaunted valour of the British navy, not less honourable in its principle, than glorious and triumphant in its results. The ferocious outrages which the piratical states of Barbary had been permitted to exercise against all the weaker Mediterranean powers, unchecked by the interference of Great Britain, had frequently afforded foreigners a topic of reproach against the mistress of the sea, which it was now determined that they should no longer possess. Early, therefore, in the spring of this year, Admiral Lord Exmouth, who held the chief command in the Mediterranean, received instructions to negotiate with the Barbary powers for treating the Ionian Islands as British possessions ; to mediate a peace between these powers and Sardinia and Naples ; and to procure, if possible, a general abolition of Christian slavery. The Dey of Algiers readily acceded to the two first objects of treaty, but declined all overtures for the accomplishment of the third ; the states of Tunis and Tripoly, on the contrary, were prevailed upon to enter into a declaration, that in future they would not make slaves of their prisoners of war, but conform to the practice of civilized Europe. On a second application to the Dey of Algiers on this subject, he alleged that he could not accede to the wishes of the British court, without the concurrence of the Grand Seignior ; and an ambassador was dispatched to Constantinople, for whose return Lord Exmouth consented to wait. Before, however, his lordship had quitted the Barbary coast on his return home, the Dey commenced hostilities by the

seizure and imprisonment of the British vice-consul, and by an atrocious massacre of the crews of some Corsican and Neapolitan boats, who carried on a coral fishery at Bona under protection of the British flag. The news of these insults infused fresh vigor into the resolutions of the British cabinet; and it was determined to send back Lord Exmouth at the head of a force capable of compelling these barbarians to respect the laws of humanity and of nations. He set sail with a fleet consisting of one ship of 110 guns, another of 98, three of 74, five frigates, and several smaller armed vessels; and having rendezvoused at Gibraltar, where he was joined by a Dutch squadron of five frigates and a sloop, who proved themselves worthy associates, he quitted that port on August 14th. It was not till the 27th that the fleet was able to reach the bay of Algiers; and the interval had been well improved by the Dey in throwing up new works about his city, and assembling a large army for its defence. A flag of truce was sent with the demands of the Prince Regent, to which the Dey was required to send an answer within three hours; but none being received, the gallant admiral made the signal for the attack, which he led in person in the Queen Charlotte, of 110 guns. Owing to the strength and situation of the Algerian defences, and the steadiness and courage of the troops by whom they were manned, the action was long and obstinate, and afforded scope for the full display of British heroism: a fire more tremendous, on both sides, than was perhaps ever before witnessed, continued from a quarter before three to nine, without intermission; and partially for more than two hours longer. But the result was decisive; the batteries of the Algerines had been destroyed; nearly their whole navy, the arsenal, and all the military stores, consumed by fire; and several thousand men had been killed or wounded; and the next day the admiral imposed, and the Dey accepted, the terms of a conqueror. These were, the abolition for ever of Christian slavery; the immediate delivery to his lordship of all slaves, of whatever nation, in the dominions

of the Dey, and of all the money received by him for the redemption of slaves since the beginning of the year ; a public acknowledgement made, and pardon asked by the Dey of the British consul, in presence of his ministers and officers. The captives thus rescued were freely conveyed to their own shores, and the sums recovered were transmitted, untouched by the captors, to the courts of Naples and Sardinia. Great Britain performed this splendid service to Christendom, without stipulation and without reimbursement, magnanimously contenting herself with the pure and brilliant glory of such a victory, atchieved in such a cause.

A.D. 1817.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 57 & 58.
 ——— PARLIAMENT, 5 & 6.

Prince Regent's Speech.—A Stone thrown into his Carriage.—Committees of both Houses to examine into seditious Practices.—Suspension of the Habeas Corpus.—Acts to restrain Sedition.—Measures of Economy proposed and frustrated.—Catholic question.—Mr. Manners Sutton elected Speaker.—Circular Letter of Lord Sidmouth to Lord-Lieutenants animadverted on in Parliament.—Committee of Secrecy on seditious Practices.—Employment of Spies.—Fresh Suspension of the Habeas Corpus.—Budget.—Tumults in the northern and midland Counties.—Death of the Princess Charlotte.

THE domestic annals of this year commence inauspiciously, nor will their further progress be found to discredit the omen.

The session of parliament was opened on January 28th, by the Prince Regent in person. The leading topics of the speech were,—the continued assurances of amity received from foreign powers,—the splendid success of the bombardment of Algiers,—and the termination in a treaty, of a victorious campaign against the government of Nepaul. Passing to matters of finance, the House of Commons were informed by his Royal Highness, that the estimates for the year would speedily be laid before them, and that they had been formed with an anxious desire to make every reduction in the public establishments which the safety of the empire and true policy would allow. A deficiency in the produce of the last year's revenue was acknowledged, but was justly ascribed to temporary causes. His Royal Highness then proceeded as follows:—“In considering our internal situation, you will, I doubt not, feel a just

indignation at the attempts which have been made to take advantage of the distresses of the country for the purpose of exciting a spirit of sedition and violence.

“ I am too well convinced of the loyalty and good sense of the great body of his Majesty's subjects, to believe them capable of being perverted by the arts which are employed to seduce them ; but I am determined to omit no precautions for preserving the public peace, and for counteracting the designs of the disaffected. And I rely with the utmost confidence on your cordial support and co-operation, in upholding a system of law and government from which we have derived inestimable advantages ; which has enabled us to conclude, with unexampled glory, a contest whereon depended the best interests of mankind, and which has been hitherto felt by ourselves, as it is acknowledged by other nations, to be the most perfect that has fallen to the lot of any people.”

The Prince Regent then withdrew, and the peers adjourned till five o'clock. On their reassembling, Viscount Sidmouth rose, and having announced an important communication, on which strangers were ordered to withdraw, he stated, that as the Prince Regent, on his return from the House, was passing at the back of the garden of Carlton House, the glass of the carriage had been broken by a stone, or by two balls from an air-gun, which appeared to have been aimed at his Royal Highness. In consequence of this notification, the Lords requested a conference with the Commons, and a joint address of congratulation to his Royal Highness, on his escape, was agreed upon. A proclamation was also issued, offering a reward of one thousand pounds for the apprehension of those persons or their abettors, by whom the passage of his Royal Highness to the House had been riotously interrupted, and his royal person endangered. No discovery, however, was made, and calmer investigation seems to have proved that the missile discharged at his Royal Highness was no other than a stone ; and consequently, that insult, not assassination, was the purpose of the offender.

Earl Grey moved an amendment on the address in answer to the royal speech, chiefly for the purpose of expressing an opinion that his Royal Highness was under a delusion respecting the degree and probable duration of the pressure on the resources of the country, which was declared to be much more extensive in its operation, more severe in its effects, more deep and general in its causes, and more difficult to be removed, than that which had prevailed at the termination of any former war. To this declaration was added, a profession of regret that his Royal Highness should not sooner have been advised to adopt measures of the most rigid economy and retrenchment, particularly with respect to our military establishments; and a resolution that the House should go immediately into a committee on the state of the nation. The amendment, however, was negatived without a division.

On February 3d, a message from the Prince Regent was brought to both Houses, announcing that his Royal Highness had ordered papers to be laid before parliament, containing information of certain practices, meetings and combinations, in the metropolis and in different parts of the kingdom, evidently calculated to endanger the public tranquillity, to alienate the affections of his Majesty's subjects from his person and government, and to bring into hatred and contempt the whole system of our laws and government. On the motion of ministers these papers were referred by each House to a secret committee of its members. The reports of the two committees were delivered to their respective Houses on the 18th and 19th of February, and through them the following somewhat alarming statements were made to the public:—That a traitorous conspiracy had been formed in the metropolis, for the purpose of overthrowing, by means of an insurrection, the established government, laws and constitution of the realm, and of effecting a general plunder and division of property; that traces appeared of a central committee in London, which communicated with clubs and associations, in various parts of the country, but

chiefly in the manufacturing districts; some of which associations were bound together by secret and unlawful oaths: that the late popular assemblages in Spa Fields were intended to subserve the purposes of the conspirators: that the riotous attack upon the gunsmiths' shops in the city for the purpose of procuring arms, was the commencement of an insurrection which, if successful, was to have been followed by desperate attempts upon the Tower, the Bank, the barracks at Knightsbridge, and other points. It appeared, however, that no adequate preparations of any kind had been made for the execution of these designs; and that no person in the higher, and scarcely any even in the middle classes of life, had taken part in them. Much was also said of the dangerous notions disseminated by a political sect called Spenceans, respecting a community of lands, and of the seditious and blasphemous writings industriously dispersed among the lower classes. Both reports concluded by invoking the interference of parliament, to obviate dangers which the utmost vigilance of government under the existing laws, had been found inadequate to avert.

The first result of these proceedings was a motion by Lord Sidmouth in the House of Lords for the suspension of the *habeas corpus* act until the first of July next; which was carried by a great majority, but not without strong opposition from several eminent noblemen, and a protest signed by eighteen of the number; who dissented from the measure on the ground that the report of the secret committee had not stated such a case of imminent and pressing danger as might not be provided against by the existing laws, or one which warranted the suspension of the most important security to the liberty of the country. In the House of Commons, Lord Castle-reagh made a motion to a similar effect; giving notice at the same time of farther measures for the protection of the country against the machinations of the disaffected. These were; first, the extending of the act of 1795 for the security of his Majesty's person, to that of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent; secondly, the embodying

into one act, the provisions of the act of 1795 relative to tumultuous meetings and debating societies, and the provisions of the act of the 39th of the King, which declared the illegality of all societies bound together by secret oaths, and of such as extended themselves by fraternized branches over the kingdom; and, lastly, the making of enactments to punish with the utmost rigor any attempt to gain over soldiers or sailors to act with any association or set of men, or to withdraw them from their allegiance.

Numerous petitions against the proposed restrictions on public liberty, and particularly against the suspension of the *habeas corpus*, were presented to the House of Commons; and they were opposed in every stage of their rapid progress by those members who usually advocated the privileges of the people; amongst whom Sir Samuel Romilly, Mr. Bennet and Sir James Macintosh were particularly distinguished: eventually, however, they passed both Houses.

The remainder of the session was marked by several attempts on the part of members of the opposition to diminish the expences of government, by the abolition of unnecessary offices and the reduction of exorbitant salaries; but the ministers uniformly resisted all concession on these heads, and with success, though on particular occasions the diminished strength of their majorities marked the feelings of independent men.

Mr. Grattan brought forward his annual motion on the claims of the catholics of Ireland, which was defeated by a majority of no more than 24. The corresponding motion of Lord Donoughmore in the House of Lords was lost by 142 votes to 90.

The resignation of the office of Speaker of the House of Commons by Mr. Abbot, on whom the Prince Regent immediately conferred the title of Baron Colchester, was notified to the House; and the Right Hon. Charles Manners Sutton was elected in his place.

A circular letter, addressed by Viscount Sidmouth, as secretary for the home-department, to the lord-lieutenants of counties, gave occasion to some strong

animadversions in both Houses of Parliament. In this document, his lordship had stated, that as it was of the greatest importance to prevent, if possible, the circulation of the blasphemous and seditious pamphlets and writings now distributed in great numbers through the country, he had thought it his duty to consult the law-officers of the crown, whether a person found selling, or in any other way publishing, such writings, might be brought immediately before a justice of the peace, by warrant, to answer for his conduct? That the law-officers, after consideration, had notified to him their opinion, that a justice of the peace might issue his warrant for the apprehension of a person charged before him, on oath, with the publication of such libels, and compel him to give bail to answer the charge. Under these circumstances, his lordship desired to call the attention of lord-lieutenants particularly to the subject, and requested that they would notify such opinion to the chairmen at the quarter sessions, in order that magistrates might act upon it.

Earl Grey introduced the subject in the House of Lords, in a speech replete with legal information, in which he contended against the principle, that a justice of the peace might be called upon by any common informer to decide what was or was not a libel, and to commit, or hold to bail, upon his sole judgment, the party accused. He also held, that such a specific instruction to magistrates as to the way in which they are to construe the law, even supposing the law itself clear and undisputed, would have been a high offence against the constitution. Sir Samuel Romilly introduced the same subject in the House of Commons, and forcibly exposed the tyranny and oppression to which this unwarranted interpretation of the law, as he held it to be, would open a door; he also enlarged on the dangerous authority assumed in this instance by an officer of the crown. Further proceedings in the business were quashed by the usual majorities.

On June 3d, another message was brought from the Prince Regent accompanying fresh documents respect-

ing the proceedings of the disaffected, which, as before, were intrusted to the examination of a committee of secrecy. In the report of this committee, after a statement that the continued existence of a traitorous conspiracy in the manufacturing districts of the north, was proved by the papers submitted to it, though the vigilance of magistrates and the measures of government had hitherto frustrated its execution, the following remarkable admission was made: that the evidence laid before the committee had been principally derived from the depositions and communications of persons who were either themselves more or less implicated in these criminal transactions, or who had apparently engaged in them, with a view of giving information to government: that the evidence of both these classes of persons must be regarded with a degree of suspicion, and that there was reason to apprehend that the language and conduct of some of the latter might, in certain instances, have had the effect of encouraging designs which it was intended that they should only be the instruments of detecting. This employment of spies, which was openly avowed and defended by ministers, exposed them to much reproach both within the House and out of it; but on the new alarm which had been excited, parliament voted a fresh suspension of the *habeas corpus*, to extend to March 1st, 1818.

The total supplies of the year were estimated by the chancellor of the exchequer at 22,137,808*l.*; the ways and means, including Irish treasury bills for 3,600,000*l.* and exchequer bills for 9,000,000*l.*, at 22,141,537*l.*

Parliament was prorogued on July 12th.

During the summer of this year, the turbulent disposition of the manufacturing class had exhibited itself in several of the northern and midland counties, particularly Lancashire, Yorkshire, Nottingham and Derby, in many atrocious acts of tumult and outrage; and it was found expedient to appoint a special commission to sit at Derby, for the trial of the delinquents. After a considerable number had been capitally convicted, the remainder pleaded guilty, under an intimation that

their punishment should be commuted; and when three of the most criminal had been selected as examples, the royal mercy was extended to the rest.

The Princess Charlotte, whose nuptials had in the last year afforded so much satisfaction to the nation, was announced to be in a situation likely to afford an eventual heir to the English throne; and seldom had the hopes and wishes of a whole people been so deeply interested in a similar event. At length, on November 5th, her Royal Highness gave birth to a dead son, and sunk herself from exhaustion early the following morning. This double calamity, — so sudden and so irreparable, — filled the whole land with mourning. The youth of the royal sufferer, — the state of conjugal felicity which she was understood to enjoy with the partner of her choice, — the domestic virtues which adorned her character, — and, lastly, the consideration that she was the sole progeny in the second degree from the royal stock, — all conspired to embitter the sense of loss, and to render the public grief not only keen but lasting. Her remains were conveyed to the royal vault at Windsor on November 19th, with every solemnity suited to the melancholy occasion, Prince Leopold himself sustaining the afflicting office of chief mourner.

A.D. 1818.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 58 & 59.
 ——— PARLIAMENT, 6 & 7.

Prince Regent's Speech. — *Conduct of Ministers under the Suspension of the Habeas Corpus.* — *Committee on Papers respecting the internal State of the Country.* — *Treaty with Spain respecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade.* — *Bill of Indemnity for Acts done under Suspension of the Habeas Corpus.* — *Grant for building new Churches* — *Marriages of their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Clarence, Cambridge, and Kent.* — *Grants to them and to the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland debated* — *Budget.* — *Amendments in the Regency Bill* — *Disturbances among the Cotton Spinners.* — *Evacuation of the French Territory by the Allied Powers.* — *Death of the Queen.*

THE speech delivered by commissioners in the name of the Prince Regent on the opening of parliament, on January 27th, was calculated to allay the apprehensions of tumult and conspiracy which it had been the task of the administration during the preceding year to excite, and to inspire confidence in the resources of the country.

After adverting to the death of the Princess Charlotte, and the consolation which his Royal Highness had received under this afflictive stroke, from the sympathy of his people, it was added, that amid his own sufferings his Royal Highness had not been unmindful of the effect which this sad event must have on the interest and future prospects of the country — an intimation of the marriages already in negotiation for the younger sons of his Majesty.

It was mentioned, that in pursuance of the recommendations of parliament, his Royal Highness had concluded treaties with Spain and Portugal on the important subject of the abolition of the slave trade; and the speech concluded with inviting the attention of parliament to the deficiency in the number of churches,

compared with the increased and increasing population of the country.

In opposing the address in answer to the speech from the throne, Sir S. Romilly adverted with severe reprobation to the conduct of ministers under the suspension of the *habeas corpus*, observing, that in the case of Brandreth, the leader of the insurgents at Derby, they had not taken advantage of it to prevent threatened mischief by putting him in confinement, but had suffered him to go on to the commission of the capital crime for which he suffered. The learned gentleman also remarked, that a large portion of the evidence produced before the secret committee had gone to prove the existence of a treasonable conspiracy of the most atrocious kind in the town of Manchester, for which some persons were stated to be in custody. The trials of these persons had been removed by *certiorari* to the King's Bench, purposely to delay their being brought forward, and the whole of the prisoners had now been dismissed; no evidence being produced against them. A very improper exercise of lenity, supposing it to be true, that they had conspired to burn factories, to attack barracks, and to create a revolution. The motion of Lord Sidmouth in the House of Lords for the repeal of the suspension of the *habeas corpus*, also called forth some strong reflections on the part of Lord Holland respecting the partial and suspicious nature of the evidence on which this most important right had been suspended, and the pernicious precedent thus established, in a time of profound peace, when nothing whatever had appeared in the state of the country to justify such a proceeding.

Lord Castlereagh soon after presented to the House of Commons, on the part of the Prince Regent, a *green bag* containing papers respecting the internal state of the country, for the examination of which his lordship proposed that a select committee should be appointed. This step was understood to be preparatory to a general bill of indemnity for all acts performed under the suspension of the *habeas corpus* act, by which the persons then imprisoned and since liberated without trial, would

be deprived of all legal remedy for such imprisonment, however unmerited. On this account the appointment of a select or secret committee was strenuously resisted by the opposition members, who contended that a very different kind of inquiry was called for by the conduct of ministers in the late transactions. The *green bag* and its contents were made the subject of much keen sarcasm by Mr. Tierney and others: the select committee, however, was granted.

The treaty between Spain and Great Britain respecting the African slave trade received the sanction of parliament, by which Spain, in consideration of a subsidy of 400,000*l.*, consented to the abolition of that inhuman traffic on all the coasts to the north of the line, retaining for herself, however, a right of continuing it indefinitely to the south of that limit.

The indemnity bill, which, after passing the House of Lords, was introduced to the House of Commons by the attorney general on March 9th, called forth the powers of several able speakers, who opposed it in every stage of its progress. Sir S. Romilly, in a very forcible speech, summed up his objections to the bill. He said it was improperly called a bill of indemnity: the object of indemnity was only to protect individuals against public prosecution, without interfering with the rights of private men, but the object of this was to annihilate such rights,—to take away all legal remedies from those who had suffered by an illegal and arbitrary exercise of authority, and to punish those who presumed to have recourse to such remedies, by subjecting them to the payment of double costs. He strongly pointed out the ill effects of the protection which it was meant to extend to magistrates, in any acts of oppression which they might suppose agreeable to ministers, and to the profligate persons who had been employed as spies and informers. The bill, however, was carried.

On the motion of the chancellor of the exchequer, a resolution was passed for the grant of a million in exchequer bills to be applied to the building of new

churches and chapels in places where the increase of inhabitants had rendered such further accommodation requisite,

A message from the Prince Regent on April 13th, announced the approaching marriages of his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence to the Princess of Saxe Meiningen, and of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge to the Princess of Hesse; and expressed his confidence that a proper provision would be made by parliament on the occasion. After warm discussions, the grant proposed by ministers of an addition of 12,000*l.* to the income of each of the royal dukes, was reduced by half, and a sum of 6,000*l.* annually was settled upon each of them, to be continued as jointure to their duchesses. A similar provision for the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland was then proposed, and carried by a majority of seven. In the next month an announcement of the intended marriage of his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent with the Dowager Princess of Leiningen, sister of Prince Leopold of Saxe Cobourg, produced a grant to this royal pair of the same amount.

The chancellor of the exchequer estimated the supplies of the year at the sum of 20,952,400*l.*, to meet which, in addition to the ready money of the ways and means, 14,000,000*l.* of new stock were created.

The declining health of her Majesty occasioned two amendments in the regency bill; the first of which empowered the queen to add six new members, resident at Windsor, to her council, in the event of her absence from that residence; the second repealed the clause making necessary the immediate assembling of a new parliament in the event of the demise of her majesty.

A dissolution of parliament immediately succeeded the close of the sessions.

The cotton spinners of Manchester remained during much of the summer in a state of organised opposition to their masters on the question of wages, and several partial disturbances arose out of this cause; one in particular at Stockport, and another at Burnley. These

were suppressed through the intervention of the Manchester yeomanry, without immediate violence, but not, it is to be presumed, without producing between this corps and the labouring classes feelings of mutual hostility and exasperation, which prepared the way for much subsequent evil.

On November 4th, the plenipotentiaries of the courts of Austria, Great Britain, Prussia and Russia assembled at Aix la Chapelle, addressed to the Duke of Richelieu, the French minister, the following important notification;—that their august masters, being called upon by the 20th article of the treaty of Paris to examine, in concert with the King of France, whether the military occupation of a part of the French territory, stipulated by that treaty, ought to cease at the termination of the third year, or be prolonged to that of the fifth; had recognised with satisfaction, that the order of things established by the restoration of the legitimate and constitutional monarchy of that country, gave assurance of the consolidation of that state of tranquillity in France necessary to the repose of Europe, and that in consequence they had commanded the immediate discontinuance of such military occupation;—a measure which they regarded as the complement of the general peace. The intelligence of this emancipation was hailed with ecstasy by the French people; and the event happily proved, that the presence of foreign bayonets was no longer necessary to the stability of the throne of Louis XVIII.

Her Majesty Queen Charlotte expired at Kew Palace on November 7th, in the 75th year of her age, after a lingering decline attended with much suffering, which is said to have been sustained with great fortitude and resignation. She deserved the respect of the nation by her conjugal and maternal character, by the uniform propriety of her conduct, and by the strict decorum which she maintained in her court.

A. D. 1819.

YEAR OF GEORGE III. 59 & 60.
 ———. PARLIAMENT, 1 & 2.

Committee appointed to consider the Penal Code. — Duke of York appointed Custos of the King's Person. — Debate on the Salary to be allowed him, and on the Windsor Establishment. — Reports of the Committee on resuming Cash Payments. — Act on this Subject. — Catholic Question lost by two Votes in the House of Commons. — Motions on this subject in the House of Lords. — Foreign Enlistment Bill. — New Taxes. — Regent's Speech. — Proclamation against seditious Meetings. — Proceedings of the Radical Reformers. — Popular Meetings. — Female Reform Societies. — Election of a Member of Parliament for Birmingham. — Reform Meeting at Manchester. — Its Dispersion by a Military Force. — Proceedings of the Manchester Magistrates. — Thanks given them by the Prince Regent. — Treatment of Mr. Hunt. — Other Reform Meetings. — Meetings on the Manchester Business. — Dismissal of Earl Fitzwilliam. — High Measures of Government. — Early Meeting of Parliament. — Prince Regent's Speech. — Debates on the Address. — Documents on the State of the Country. — New Laws proposed by Ministers. — Traverse Bill. — Seditious Libel — Newspaper Stamp — Seditious Meetings, Training, and Search for Arms Bills. — Debates on these Measures. — Amendments made. — Illness of George III. — His Death and Character.

A TOPIC deeply interesting to the enlightened friends of humanity, was one of the first to occupy the attention of the new parliament, which assembled for dispatch of business on January 14th. This was the state of the criminal code. The prodigious multitude and variety of offences, amounting to above 200, against which the punishment of death was denounced by the English statute book, had long been reprobated by philanthropists as a national disgrace, and stigmatised by philosophical lawyers as a fruitful source of crime and mischief. It had been observed, that the certainty rather

than the severity of punishment tends to deter offenders, and it was obvious that penalties which the general feeling of society condemned as incommensurate with offences, were of all others the most uncertain of being inflicted. These principles had been frequently brought before the House by Sir Samuel Romilly, who had proposed several bills founded upon them, one of which was carried into a law. The lamented death of this eminent person had now thrown the cause into other hands, but it was pursued with unabated ardor. A petition from the corporation of London, complaining of the increase of crimes and pointing out the commutation of capital punishment in many cases as a remedy, was heard with attention by both Houses, and ordered to be printed; and ministers proposed to refer the subject to a committee which it was agreed to appoint for the examination of the police and discipline of prisons.

This committee was formed on the motion of Lord Castlereagh on March 1st. To those deeply interested in the object, however, it appeared, that a distinct committee ought to be appointed for the consideration of so extensive as well as important a subject as the penal code; and on the following day, Sir James Macintosh rose to make a motion to this effect. After many excellent observations and a number of striking details, tending to show the system of subterfuge which the exorbitant severity of the law, in many cases, had produced amongst prosecutors, juries and witnesses, and the frequent impunity and increase of crime resulting from the same cause, the learned gentleman proceeded to explain his particular views. It was by no means, he said, his intention to form a new criminal code; altogether to abolish a system of law, admirable in its principles, interwoven with the habits of the English people, and under which they had long and happily lived, was a proposition very remote from his notions of legislation. Neither did he propose to abolish the punishment of death; holding it to be a part of the right of self-defence, with which societies were endowed; and considering it, like all other punishments, as an evil when unnecessary, but

but capable, like them, of producing preponderating good. Nor yet did he aim at establishing any universal principle; his sole object was, to bring the letter of the law more near to its practice; to make the execution of the law form the majority, and the remission the minority of cases. He afterwards divided capital felonies into three classes,—those on which the punishment of death was always,—those on which it was very often,—and those on which it was never put in force. The first and second divisions he proposed, for the present, to leave untouched; the last, consisting of no less than 150 different crimes, ought, he conceived, to be expunged entirely from the list, as the relics of barbarous times, and disgraceful to the character of a thinking and enlightened people. Lord Castlereagh passed many compliments on the candid and moderate spirit in which the honourable and learned gentleman had brought forward his motion; but he persisted in opposing the appointment of a separate committee; other members, however, strenuously supported the measure, and it was finally carried by a majority of 147 to 128. Before the end of the session, Sir James Macintosh, as chairman of the committee, had the satisfaction of reporting progress.

In the royal speech, delivered by commissioners at the opening of the session, it had been stated, that the demise of the queen would render necessary an act for the appointment of a new guardian of his Majesty's person. The Earl of Liverpool accordingly, took an early opportunity of introducing a motion for the purpose of nominating to that office his Royal Highness the Duke of York. To the person proposed no objection was made; and after some discussion as to the patronage to be enjoyed by his Royal Highness, the bill passed. A matter connected with this,—the Windsor establishment,—was afterwards the topic of warm discussion. Some reductions were proposed by ministers themselves, being loudly called for by the public voice, —but there was an evident disposition to render these as

few as possible, and the proposal of continuing to the Duke of York, the income of 10,000*l.* per annum, which had been settled upon her Majesty by the former act on this subject, was not carried without much free remark, both in and out of parliament, and a division, in which the numbers were,—Ayes, 156; Noes, 97.

A report was delivered from the committee of secrecy respecting the resumption of cash payments, purporting that the committee had a confident expectation of being enabled to fix upon a period, and to suggest a plan, for the final removal of the bank restrictions; but that such plan would be, in their opinion, materially impeded by the present engagement of the bank to pay in cash all its outstanding notes of an earlier date than January 1st, 1817, and all fractional sums under 5*l.* In consequence of this notification, a bill was passed restraining all such payments until the end of the present session.

At a subsequent period, the resolutions of this committee of secrecy were brought up to a committee of the whole House, and, after a very laborious and apparently impartial examination of the subject in all its bearings, the chancellor of the exchequer, or Mr. Peel, was directed to bring in a bill or bills grounded upon those resolutions, which provided for the gradual return to a metallic currency by the following clauses:—

“ 1. That it is expedient to continue the restriction on payments in cash by the bank of England, beyond the time to which it is at present limited by law.

“ 2. That it is expedient that a definite period should be fixed for the termination of the restriction on cash payments; and that preparatory measures should be taken with a view to facilitate and insure, on the arrival of that period, the payment of the promissory notes of the bank of England in the legal coin of the realm.

“ 3. That in order to give the bank a greater control over the issues of their notes than they at present possess, provision ought to be made for the gradual repayment to the bank of the sum of ten millions; being part of the sum due to the bank on account of advances made

by them for the public service, and on account of the purchase of exchequer bills under the authority of acts of the legislature.

“ 4. That it is expedient to provide, by law, that from the 1st of February 1820, the bank shall be liable to deliver, on demand, gold of standard fineness, having been assayed and stamped at his Majesty's mint, a quantity of not less than 60 ounces being required, in exchange for such an amount of notes as shall be equal to the value of the gold so required, at the rate of 4*l*. 1*s*. per ounce.

“ 5. That from the 1st of October 1820, the bank shall be liable to deliver, on demand, gold of standard fineness, assayed and stamped as before mentioned, a quantity of not less than 60 ounces being required, in exchange for such an amount of notes as shall be equal in value to the gold so required, at the rate of 3*l*. 19*s*. 6*d*. per ounce.

“ 6. That from the 1st of May 1821, the bank shall be liable to deliver, on demand, gold of standard fineness, assayed and stamped as before mentioned, a quantity of not less than 60 ounces being required, in exchange for such an amount of notes as shall be equal in value to the gold so required, at the rate of 3*l*. 17*s*. 10½*d*. per ounce.

“ 7. That the bank may, at any period between the 1st of February 1820, and the 1st of October 1820, undertake to deliver gold of standard fineness, assayed and stamped as before mentioned, at any rate between the sums of 4*l*. 1*s*. per ounce and 3*l*. 19*s*. 6*d*. per ounce; and at any period between the 1st of October 1820 and the 1st of May 1821, at any rate between the sums of 3*l*. 19*s*. 6*d*. and 3*l*. 17*s*. 10½*d*. per ounce; but that such intermediate rate having been once fixed by the bank, that rate shall not be subsequently increased.

“ 8. That from the 1st of May 1821, the bank shall pay its notes, on demand, in the legal coin of the realm.

“ 9. That it is expedient to repeal the laws prohibiting the melting and the exportation of the coin of the realm.”

On May 3d, a number of petitions both for and against the catholic claims were presented to the House of Commons, after which Mr. Grattan rose to agitate anew this great question of internal policy. The motion with which he concluded his speech was the following : “ That this House do resolve itself into a committee of the whole House, to consider the state of the laws by which the oaths or declarations are required to be taken or made as qualifications for the enjoyment of offices and the exercise of civil functions, so far as the same affect his Majesty’s Roman catholic subjects ; and whether it would be expedient in any or what manner, to alter or modify the same, and subject to what provisions and regulations.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Croker, and supported by Lord Normanby ; it was opposed by Mr. Leslie Foster ; at length, on the division there appeared, Ayes 241, Noes 243. Thus the motion was lost by a majority in the Commons of no more than 2. A corresponding motion, submitted by the Earl of Donoughmore to the peers, was approved by the Bishop of Norwick, and condemned by the Bishops of Worcester and of Peterborough. It was warmly opposed by the lord chancellor, and not less strenuously defended by Earl Grey ; and after various noble lords had taken part in the debate, the numbers appeared to be, Contents 106, Not-contents 147.

Another effort was made in behalf of this suffering portion of his Majesty’s subjects, by a bill introduced into the House of Lords by Earl Grey, “ for abrogating so much of the acts of the 25th and 30th of Charles II. as prescribes to all officers, civil and military, and to members of both Houses of parliament, a declaration against the doctrines of transubstantiation and the invocation of saints.” The bill was suffered to proceed to a second reading, when it was negatived by 106 yeas, to 82.

No ministerial measure throughout the session was more warmly or more perseveringly contested than a bill introduced into the House of Commons by the attorney-general on May 13th, for preventing enlistment and the equipment of vessels for foreign service. The first of these objects, the learned gentleman stated, had been in some measure provided for by two statutes of George II. which made it an offence amounting to felony to enter the service of any foreign state; but he contended that if neutrality were to be observed, it was important that the penalty should be extended to the act of serving *unacknowledged* powers as well as acknowledged ones; and part of his proposal was, to amend these statutes by introducing after the words "king, prince, state, potentate," the words, "colony, or district who do assume the powers of a government." He wished, he said, merely to give this country the right which every legitimate country should have, to prevent its subjects from breaking the neutrality towards acknowledged states and those assuming the power of states. It was on a similar principle that he desired to prevent the fitting out of armed vessels, and also the fitting out or supplying other vessels with warlike stores, in any of his Majesty's ports. This opening called up Sir J. Macintosh, who warned the House, that however this motion might be worded, and its true object concealed, it ought to be entitled "a bill for preventing British subjects from lending their assistance to the South American cause or enlisting in the South American service." He also stated the statutes of George II., alleged as authority on this occasion, not to have been, as represented by the honourable mover, general laws applying to all times and circumstances; on the contrary, they were intended merely for temporary purposes, namely, to prevent the formation of Jacobite armies, organized in France and Spain against the peace of this country. He ended by reprobating a measure which was in fact an enactment to repress the rising liberty of the South Americans, and to enable Spain to re-impose that yoke of tyranny which they

were unable to bear, which they had nobly shaken off, and from which, he trusted in God, they would finally be able to free themselves, whatever attempts were made by the ministers of this or any other country to countenance or assist their oppressors.

Lord Castlereagh deprecated the introduction of the political topics with which the learned gentleman had filled his speech. He contended that the law was necessary to prevent our giving just offence to Spain, whom that House was too just and too generous to oppress, because she was weak and her fortunes had declined. Was not, he asked, the proclamation issued about eighteen months ago, approved of, both in this country and America, as perfectly just in the principles of neutrality which it declared? And was it not a breach of that proclamation, when not only individuals, whom perhaps it would have been impossible to restrain, not only officers, in small numbers, went out to join the insurgent corps, but when there was a regular organization of troops, when regiments regularly formed left this country, when ships of war were prepared in our ports, and transports were chartered to carry out arms and ammunition? He felt some apology due to the House for not sooner bringing forward such a measure; but while any hope remained of a mediation between Spain and her colonies, he had been unwilling to speak of the policy of the existing laws; and it was but lately that such hopes had entirely vanished.

In the further progress of the bill, ministers entirely deserted this ground of neutrality, and avowed that the measure was suggested by the stipulations of a treaty with Spain in 1814, and by the representations which the ministers of Ferdinand VII. had considered themselves as entitled by such stipulations to address to his Majesty's government. This confession drew down some severe comments on the character of the King of Spain, and the baseness of this country's legislating on his suggestion, and to serve his purposes of tyranny and oppression. The argument afterwards branched out into many important questions of policy and of national law; and histori-

cal facts were largely adduced as parallels of illustrations. Finally, when the subject appeared to be exhausted, the bill was carried in the House of Commons by 190 to 129 votes, and in the House of Lords by 100 to 49.

With respect to the financial concerns of the year, parliament agreed, on the recommendation of the finance-committee, to raise 8,000,000*l.* of new taxes by a considerable duty on foreign wool, and by smaller duties on various other articles, such as tobacco, tea, coffee and cacao-nuts. Two loans of 12,000,000*l.* each were also made; one of them supplied by the money market, the other derived from the sinking fund. Out of these sums there would be a surplus, of which 5,000,000*l.* were to go towards the repayment to the bank recommended by parliament previously to the resumption of cash payments, and 5,597,000*l.* to the reduction of the unfunded debt.

After an unusually busy session, parliament was prorogued on July 13th. The speech delivered by his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, on this occasion, adverted, with expressions of concern, to attempts recently made in the manufacturing districts, to take advantage of circumstances of local distress, to excite a spirit of disaffection to the institutions and government of the country. It expressed the firm determination of his Royal Highness to employ the powers intrusted to him by law for the preservation of order and tranquillity; and invited the co-operation of the members with the magistracy of their respective counties, in endeavours to defeat the machinations of those who, under pretence of reform, aimed at the subversion of our happy constitution.

A royal proclamation for the suppression of seditious meetings was a further indication of the anxiety of government on this head. Ever since the commencement of the year, in fact, a party who about this time received the appellation of *radical reformers*, had been distinguishing themselves by their active endeavours at proselytism among the lower orders, principally of the manufacturing class.

One of their first steps was an application to the authorities of Manchester to convoke a meeting for the purpose of petitioning against the corn-bill, which, on their refusal, was summoned by an anonymous advertisement. The hero of the day was Mr. Hunt, who was invited to take the lead, and was conducted into the place by an immense multitude, in a kind of triumphal procession, preceded by flags with appropriate mottoes. A strong remonstrance to the Prince Regent was adopted at this meeting, and some violent sentiments were uttered; but it dispersed without any tendency to tumult. This assemblage was the precursor of many others which took place at Leeds, Stockport, Ashton-under-line, Glasgow, and other seats of declining manufactures. The strenuous exhortations of the orators, whose authority over the collected thousands appeared unbounded, added to the efficacious measures of precaution taken by the local authorities, preserved perfect order and tranquillity in these extraordinary meetings; but there was a marked contrast between the peaceable demeanour of the auditors and the inflammatory nature of the harangues addressed to them. In these speeches, after the feelings had been excited by highly wrought descriptions of the distresses of the poor, the causes of those distresses were treated of; which were stated to be, pensions, places, exorbitant taxation, and generally, the usurpations of the higher orders upon the lower. The want of a true representation of the people, unlike the present system, which was termed a mere mockery, was declared to be the grand source of these mischiefs, and annual parliaments, universal suffrage and election by ballot, were pointed out as their only cure. In one instance, there was some discussion whether the people had a right to destroy the bank of England; and some suggestions of the expediency of a division of landed property, and of a recurrence to physical force, were thrown out. These intimations, however, which produced no results, were afterwards traced to persons employed as spies. The formation, in Lancashire, of female reform societies, which

entered into violent resolutions, and called upon the wives and daughters of manufacturers in different branches to form sister societies, for the purpose of co-operating with the men, and of instilling into their children a "deep-rooted hatred of our tyrannical rulers," was a feature of the system equally novel and disgusting. The reformers at Birmingham, where general distress had given great currency to their doctrines, now ventured upon a bolder experiment than any yet exhibited. This was the election of a member, or "legislatorial attorney," as it was phrased, to represent that great town in the House of Commons. At a meeting holden for this purpose on July 12th, the managers of this design stated, that the issuing of a writ being *compulsory*, they had not thought it necessary to wait for a mandate on this occasion; but, in the exercise of their constitutional right, and of the duty of good subjects, should proceed to advise the sovereign by their representative. Sir Charles Wolseley, Bart., who had previously signified his resolution to claim his seat if elected, was now put in nomination and chosen by a shew of hands; not less than 15,000 persons being present, and apparently concurring in this extraordinary act. A few days afterwards, at a meeting assembled in the great unrepresented town of Leeds, it was resolved that a similar election should take place, as soon as an eligible member could be found. The government now judged it time to interfere. Sir Charles Wolseley was taken into custody on account of seditious expressions used at a meeting at Stockport; and a person named Harrison was arrested on a similar charge, while attending a reform meeting in Smithfield. An atrocious attempt to assassinate Birch, a police officer, by whom both these parties had been arrested, called forth vigorous measures for the discovery of the offenders, and a proclamation against seditious meetings was issued on July 30th. The Manchester reformers, who had placarded a notice of a meeting for the purpose of proceeding to an election, were informed, that the magistrates would not suffer this assemblage to take place, its object being clearly illegal; and in conse-

quence, the design was relinquished. Soon after, however, notice was issued by the reformers of a meeting at this town for the avowedly legal object of petitioning for a reform in parliament.

It was on the 16th of August that this meeting took place. The concourse was greater than on any former occasion of a similar nature. An open space in the town, called St. Peter's Field, was selected as the place of assembly. Some hours before the proceedings were to commence, large bodies of reformers began to march in from the neighbouring towns and villages; formed five deep, and preserving somewhat of a military regularity of step. Each body had its own banner, bearing a motto: "No corn laws," "Universal suffrage," "Vote by ballot," were read on some; on others, the more menacing inscriptions, "God armeth the patriot," and "Liberty or death." Under a white silk flag, two clubs of female reformers appeared. Most of these flags were planted on a waggon in the midst of the field, from which the orators were to make their harangues; others remained dispersed amid the crowd. A band of special constables took its station on the field without molestation. The numbers collected were variously estimated, from 40,000 to 80,000. At length, the arrival of Mr. Hunt was announced by rapturous plaudits: he accepted the general invitation to preside; and mounting a platform raised on the waggon, commenced an harangue in his usual style. Before he had made much progress, a panic was raised at the extremity of the throng by the appearance of the Manchester yeomanry advancing in a rapid trot towards the centre of the meeting. Mr. Hunt cried out to the people not to be alarmed, but to stand firm, and receive the military with three cheers; which was done. The yeomanry, however, after a momentary pause to breathe their horses and resume their ranks, drew their swords, dashed into the crowd and forced their way up to the speakers; the commanding officer then cried out to Mr. Hunt, that he was his prisoner. Mr. Hunt, after exhorting the people to tranquillity, said, that he would give himself up readily to any civil officer who should

produce his warrant; on which the chief police officer took him in charge. Another of the speakers and a few of the mob were likewise seized; two or three persons against whom there were warrants escaped amid the confusion. After the prisoners had been taken, a cry was heard among the yeomanry of "Have at their flags!" and they began dashing down, not only those in the waggon, but the others stationed in different parts of the field; cutting, without scruple, to right and left to get at them. The people fled in all directions, offering no resistance beyond the throwing of a few brick-bats. The military gave a loose to their fury, and a scene of the most terrific nature commenced. The crowd fell over each other in heaps; some were driven into a cellar,—others through the doors of buildings; numbers were trampled under foot by men and horses;—many, of both sexes, were cut down by sabre-strokes; not even the special constables were safe amid the indiscriminate attack; one of their number, a woman, and three or four other persons, were killed on the spot; the wounded and hurt amounted to not fewer, it is said, than four hundred. All this happened in less than ten minutes, by which time the field was entirely cleared of its former occupiers and filled with different corps of cavalry and infantry. Mr. Hunt and his fellow prisoners, after a short examination by the magistrates, were conducted to solitary cells; having been informed that the charges against them amounted to nothing less than high treason. A placard was put forth by the magistrates the next day, by which the practice of military training, said to be carried on in secret by large bodies of men for treasonable purposes, was denounced as illegal. By the same authority also, public thanks were returned to the officers and men of the different troops engaged in the attack of the preceding day, in which particular gratification was expressed at the *extreme forbearance* manifested by the yeomanry when insulted and defied by "the rioters."

On the arrival in London of a dispatch from the Manchester magistrates to the Secretary for the Home De-

partment, giving an account of these very extraordinary proceedings, a cabinet council was held; the result of which was, the return of official letters of thanks, in the name of the Prince Regent, to the magistrates of Manchester, for "their prompt, decisive and efficient measures for the preservation of the public tranquillity;" and to all the military engaged, for the support and assistance lent by them to the civil power.

The law officers of the crown, however, thought good to advise the abandonment of the threatened prosecution of Mr. Hunt and his associates for high treason; and the magistrates sent for them from their solitary cells, to acquaint them that they would be proceeded against for a conspiracy; which, being only a misdemeanor, they might have bail. Mr. Hunt refused to give bail to the amount of a single farthing, and was in consequence conducted to Lancaster castle. Scarcely, however, had he arrived, when bail was offered by some of his friends and accepted; and he was liberated. His return to Manchester was one long triumphal procession, waited upon by thousands, who saluted with continued shouts of applause him whom they now considered as a champion and martyr of liberty.

Notwithstanding the tragical event of the Manchester meeting, the reformers still ventured to assemble as before, at Leeds and at other towns; and at these meetings the conduct of the Manchester magistrates and yeomanry became the topic of much vehement invective. Mourning ensigns were also exhibited; frightful details were given of the barbarous acts committed by the yeomanry; and the sufferers of the 16th of August were eulogised as martyrs. On none of these occasions, where the local authorities forbore to interpose, did the slightest breach of the peace ensue; but at Paisley, the seizure of the flags of the reformers by the magistrates, on their return from the meeting, gave occasion, or pretext, to a riot, which was quelled, however, without blood.

On the 1st of May, the Whig party throughout the country began to rouse and to demand approval and reward so hastily given by

government to what appeared an illegal act of power, accompanied by circumstances of great violence and cruelty; and numerous requisitions, both for town and county meetings, were signed on the occasion. In many places, the sheriffs, or other local authorities, refused to sanction these assemblages, which were then held under private auspices, and often both very numerous and very respectably attended. A large meeting of the county of York was countenanced by the presence of Earl Fitzwilliam, the lord-lieutenant of the west riding, as well as by that of many noblemen and gentlemen of the first consequence, who spoke on the subject in a strain equally animated and temperate. The resolutions passed, expressed no opinion on the transactions at Manchester except that they loudly called for an inquiry, which the Prince Regent was petitioned to institute. The result was, the immediate dismissal of Earl Fitzwilliam from the lieutenancy of the west riding; an act which excited a strong sensation through the whole kingdom. An address of the corporation of London, expressing warm indignation at the Manchester proceedings, and earnestly calling for inquiry, received from the Regent an answer in the tone of rebuke; and loyal addresses, and offers for raising troops of yeomanry, were zealously promoted by the friends of administration. A veteran battalion of between ten and eleven thousand men was also formed from the Chelsea pensioners.

At Manchester, the authorities showed a determination to carry matters through with a high hand; no depositions against the yeomanry or police officers, by those whom they had injured, were received; the coroner directed verdicts to be returned on the victims of the 16th of August, on which no judicial proceedings could be founded; and the Lancashire grand jury threw out all the bills preferred against individuals by the sufferers on that day.

Amid these circumstances, the assembly of parliament was impatiently expected by all parties, and it met for dispatch of business on November 18th. The royal speech lamented the necessity of summoning the

Houses thus early, created by the prevalence of seditious practices in the manufacturing districts, which had been carried on with increased activity since they had been last assembled in Parliament.

"They have led," continued his Royal Highness, "to proceedings incompatible with the public tranquillity and with the peaceful habits of the industrious classes of the community; and a spirit is now manifested, utterly hostile to the constitution of this kingdom, and aiming not only at the change of those political institutions which have hitherto constituted the pride and security of this country, but at the subversion of the rights of property and of all order in society.

"I have given directions that the necessary information on this subject shall be laid before you; and I feel it to be my indispensable duty, to press on your immediate attention the consideration of such measures as may be requisite for the counteraction and suppression of a system which, if not effectually checked, must bring confusion and ruin on the nation."

An amendment to the address was moved in the House of Lords by Earl Grey, in which, while the necessity of checking any practices dangerous to the laws and the constitution was fully admitted, a strong opinion was expressed of the expediency of conciliation, and of inquiry into the transactions at Manchester, for the purpose of allaying the feelings to which they had given birth, and of satisfying the people that the lives of his Majesty's subjects could not be sacrificed with impunity.

Lord Sidmouth, who felt himself officially called upon for a reply, declared, respecting the transactions at Manchester, that never had so much exaggeration, misrepresentation and falsehood gone forth concerning a public event. That the meeting, he would boldly take upon him to assert, was not only illegal but treasonable. The magistrates would have acted not only unwisely, but unjustly and basely, had they done otherwise than they did; the letter of approbation was sanctioned by a cabinet council, and he, for his part,

did not shrink from any part of the responsibility incurred. The danger, he said, with which we were threatened from the discontented state of the public mind, was generally admitted, and its magnitude should induce their lordships to unite in vigorous measures to avert it. If there was any feature in that danger more alarming than another, it was the conduct of some persons who encouraged and emboldened the disaffected, by standing between the government they assailed and the party assailing.

After an animated discussion, in which the necessity of inquiry was strenuously maintained by the lords in opposition, and as strenuously resisted by ministers and their friends; and in which also the dismissal of Earl Fitzwilliam was much commented on, the House divided on Lord Grey's amendment: non-contents present, 121, proxies, 38,—159; contents present, 31, proxies, 3,—34.

In the House of Commons, an amendment to the address similar in spirit to that proposed by Earl Grey in the House of Lords, was moved by Mr. Tierney in an animated and able speech, in which he drew a melancholy picture of the state of the country, affirming that the measures of ministers had brought it to the brink of despair. He also stated, that the cause of parliamentary reform had been working its way for years, and that the great mass of the people did not now feel the state of the representation favourable to them. The diffusion of education, he said, which parliament itself had sanctioned, had compelled the House to submit to all the criticisms on its proceedings which men thought themselves justified by the facts and by their own knowledge in making. If government thought that by passing new laws, by raising new troops, or by the promulgation of loyal addresses, they could put down the awakened spirit of the country, they would find themselves grievously mistaken. He then adverted to the Manchester business, and urged at considerable length the necessity of inquiry. On the dismissal of Earl Fitzwilliam he made some severe remarks.

Lord Castlereagh declined following the honourable mover of the amendment through his remarks on the state of the country, because the only definite or tangible proposition which he had offered, was one for inquiry into the Manchester transactions; and because he should himself on the morrow lay before the House in a printed form, the mass of information on which government intended to proceed, and also explain the measures which it had it in contemplation to propose. His lordship justified the means taken for the dispersion of the Manchester meeting, and asserted, as what he believed to be the fact, though conflicting evidence was, he admitted, to be expected, that three attempts had been made to read the riot act before the interference of the military. He ended by supporting the original address. Many members delivered their sentiments on this interesting topic, and after some contest, the opposition carried an adjournment of the debate.

On the following day, the promised documents respecting the state of popular feeling in the manufacturing districts, were laid before parliament. These pieces consisted partly of the correspondence of official persons with the Secretary of the Home Department, partly of communications to such persons made by individuals whose names were suppressed. The letters of the Manchester magistrates previously to the 16th of August expressed apprehensions that a formidable insurrection was in contemplation. They bore testimony to the "deep distresses" of the manufacturing classes, of which advantage was taken by the disaffected to instil their pernicious doctrines, and assigned "hunger" as the natural cause of their willingness to listen to any proposal for the redress of their grievances. These magistrates mentioned the popular meetings, and the freedom of the press as principal ^{of} their alarm. Some letters from the Earl of ^{of} ~~York~~, lord-lieutenant of the county of Lancaster, ^{of} ~~York~~ referred to the failure of his attempts to raise a body of yeomanry. The practice of training was affirmed in

many affidavits and examinations, to prevail extensively among the reformists; but in some cases it appeared that nothing more had been intended by these men than to enable themselves to march in the semblance of military array to their meetings, and it appeared that sticks had been the only weapons carried to drill. A communication from Earl Fitzwilliam on the state of the West Riding, mentioned that the last reform meeting on Hunslet Moor had been less numerously attended than the former ones, and conveyed the sentiment, that the fashion of holding such meetings might safely be left to die away spontaneously. Sir John Byng, commander of the district, stated, that it seemed certain that simultaneous meetings were to have been held at many neighbouring towns, which he named, but that disunion among the leaders had baffled the design. The grand jury of Cheshire notified the alarm felt for their lives and properties by his Majesty's loyal subjects in some part of the Macclesfield district, where active measures of terror and intimidation had for a short time past prevailed. The distress and discontent of the people of the west riding of Yorkshire, where pikes and pistols in small quantities were said to be manufacturing, made the subject of some communications; and similar statements respecting the southwest of Scotland, where employment and wages had fallen off in a still more deplorable degree, were afforded by others.

This body of evidence having been submitted to the two Houses, the ministers proceeded to open their system of defensive measures. As a kind of preliminary, the Lord Chancellor, on November 29th, proposed an act, which, he said, did not arise out of the circumstances of the times, but had been contemplated by him long ago, for taking away the right of traversing in cases of misdemeanour. On the second reading, this bill was opposed by Earl Grosvenor; who said, that while the Attorney General was allowed to hold informations over the heads of defendants for an indefinite time, it was greatly adding to the grievance to abolish the right of imparlance; for thus the security of the

subject was diminished, and the power of the crown increased. Lord Erskine also objected to it, as depriving the people of an ancient and important privilege, and remarked on the singular coincidence of its being brought forward at a time when the table of the House was covered with other bills tending to abridge the rights of the people. The Earl of Liverpool declared, that if their lordships did not pass this bill, they had better at once declare, that every species of blasphemy and sedition was to be tolerated in future. Persons charged with the higher crimes were in most instances brought immediately to trial, whilst in lesser crimes, a delay might be claimed sometimes extending to a year. Thus, in cases of libel, the offence might be repeated day after day and hour after hour before the party was brought to trial. He agreed that the measure was an innovation, and that the House was bound to require evidence of a strong necessity; but this existed, he contended, in the state of the country and the practices which notoriously prevailed. Lord Holland urged, that the measure ought in equity to be so altered as to legislate on both sides, by preventing the delays which occurred by prosecutions in *ex officio* informations, as well as in those by indictments. In compliance with this suggestion, the Lord Chancellor, on the third reading, proposed an additional clause for the purpose of compelling the Attorney General either to bring a defendant to trial within a twelvemonth, or to enter a *noli prosequi*. By favour of this amendment, the bill passed both Houses without further opposition.

The additional measures for the restriction of public liberty, proposed by Lord Sidmouth in the House of Lords and Lord Castlereagh in the Commons, were the following. An act to render the publication of a blasphemous or seditious libel punishable, on a second conviction, at the discretion of the court, by fine, imprisonment, banishment, or transportation, and to give power in cases of a second conviction, to seize the copies of the libel in possession of the publisher.—A stamp duty equal to that paid by newspapers on all publications

of less than a given number of sheets, with an obligation on all publishers of such pieces to enter into recognisances for the payment of such penalties as might in future be inflicted on them. The press being thus restrained, seditious meetings were to be controlled by the following provisions:—That a requisition for the holding of any meeting, other than those regularly called by a sheriff, boroughreeve or other magistrate, should be signed by seven householders, and that it should be illegal for any persons not inhabitants of the place in which such meeting was held, to attend it. Also, that magistrates should be empowered within certain limitations to appoint the time and place of meeting.—To repel danger from the mustering of an illegal force, it was proposed to prohibit military training, except under the authority of a magistrate or lieutenant of a county; and, in the disturbed districts, to give to magistrates the power of seizing arms believed to be collected for unlawful purposes, and also to apprehend and detain persons so carrying arms.

A similar outline of these intended measures was on the same day offered to the House of Commons by Lord Castlereagh. Of all these modes of restriction on public liberty, that for the prevention of secret military training was the only one which passed without opposition, from a general sense of its expediency, under the existing circumstances of the country. The bill for the seizure of arms, which, under certain circumstances and in particular districts, authorized search in private houses “by day or night,” was strenuously resisted in both Houses; and an amendment for omitting the words “or night,” was put to a division in the Commons, but lost by 158 to 46. That clause of the blasphemous and seditious libel bill, by which libel of this nature, on a second conviction, was rendered punishable by transportation, was withdrawn by ministers in the Commons, after passing the Lords; but the penalty of banishment, previously unknown to English law, was suffered to be enacted. The seditious meeting bill received in its progress a modification by which all

meetings held within any room or building were exempted from its operation. Several limitations of the bill for subjecting small publications to the newspaper stamp were also admitted. With these and a few smaller exceptions, ministers succeeded in carrying into full effect the system of rigor and coercion by which they judged it advisable to encounter the irritation and turbulence of a free, an enlightened, and a suffering people.

Such were the final acts of the year 1819, and of the last parliament of the reign of George III. The protracted existence and sufferings of the monarch were now fast drawing to a close. As early as the month of November, the hitherto firm health of his Majesty had undergone a sudden alteration; and though the immediately dangerous symptoms of the attack were removed, they were productive of a state of general feebleness and decay, which his immediate attendants soon perceived to admit of but one termination. No bulletins, except the monthly reports of the physicians to the council over which the Duke of York presided, were however issued; and the country received with a momentary feeling of surprise, the notification, that on the evening of the 29th of January 1820, King George III. had breathed his last without suffering and almost without a disease; having attained the 82d year of his age and the 60th of his reign.

The public conduct of this prince, and the tendencies of the political principles by which it was guided, might afford much scope for discussion, and will be differently estimated by opposite parties; but respecting his private and domestic character, little variance of opinion has at any time existed among his contemporaries. Probity, and a strict sense of religious obligation, formed the basis of his moral character;—moderation, and simplicity of his habits and manners,—and benevolence of his disposition. A faithful and affectionate husband, a fond and assiduous parent, and a kind, considerate and affable master, he secured the respect and attachment of all who beheld him nearly, and was approved by the moral feelings of the whole nation. His intellectual faculties, originally of no high order, were

permanently clouded by the constitutional malady which first exhibited itself at an early period of his life. An inflexible persistence in the line of conduct which he had once judged it right to adopt, — an immoveable adherence to the maxims of government instilled into him by his earliest instructors, formed the leading characteristic of his mental constitution, and that which influenced in the most important manner the destinies of his kingdoms.

In literary taste, George III. was supposed to be somewhat deficient, though he collected one of the noblest libraries extant; but the fine arts, especially music and painting, he loved, patronised, and in a considerable degree understood. Agriculture also and some of the mechanic arts were among his pursuits, and hunting, till a late period of life, formed his principal amusement.

His firm attachment to the church of which he was the head, was totally exempt from bigotry; he uniformly insisted that no species of religious persecution should take place under his sway; all the relaxations of the penal laws affecting the catholics and the protestant dissenters, bear date from his reign, and were sanctioned by his beneficent and equitable mind; and a genuine scruple of conscience respecting his coronation oath, seems alone to have opposed his conceding to the former sect the full rights of citizens.

To the system of general education promulgated by Joseph Lancaster, his majesty early extended his firm and liberal support; nobly disdainful of the scruples and alarms which it excited in other quarters. On this subject he once uttered the memorable wish, "that the day might come in which every poor child in his dominions would be able to read its bible."

Posterity will number George III. with the best men, though not the ablest monarchs, who have borne the British sceptre.

FINIS.

